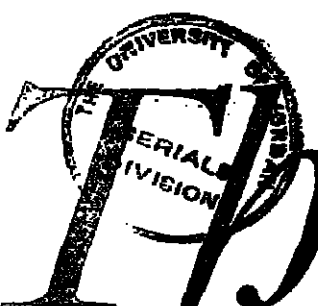


Wednesday May 20 1998

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INTERNATIONAL

# The Guardian

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The case of the US government v Microsoft

## The battle of the Bills

G2 with European weather

Emma Forrest meets Elizabeth Wurtzel

## From Prozac to Bitch

G2 page 4. Plus Francis Wheen

Environment

## Robbing the tribes

Society, G2 pages 12-13

# Cook sinks, Mowlam soars

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE troubled first year in office of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has so damaged his standing among the voters as Harriet Harman, according to today's Guardian/ICM opinion poll.

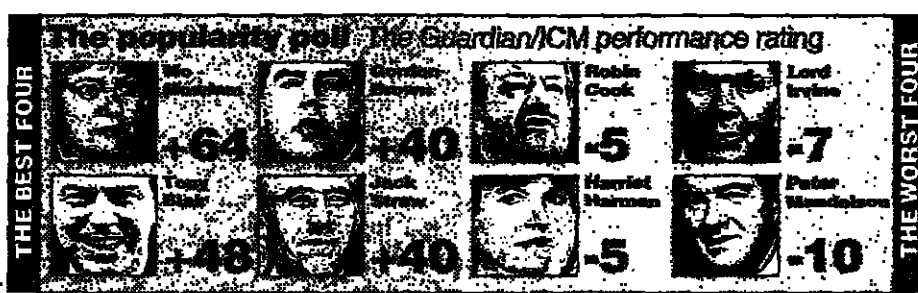
The poll also shows that the public believes that the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, should be left without a seat in the Cabinet as his reputation among the voters is currently even worse than that of Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor.

The Guardian/ICM cabinet

ratings also show that the leading lights of Tony Blair's Cabinet are extremely popular among the electorate with the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, even outshining the Prime Minister himself.

The publication of the poll coincides with speculation within the Government's own ranks that Mr Blair's first cabinet reshuffle could come within days rather than weeks.

It is widely expected that the Public Services Minister, David Clark, and the Transport Secretary, Gavin Strang, face demotion from the Cabinet with Treasury minister Alistair Darling being among the front-runners to replace them.



ICM asked the voters whether they were satisfied with the job done by the 13 frontline cabinet ministers plus Mr Mandelson, who is widely considered to be knocking on the door.

The results show that Ms Mowlam's plunge into the

complexities of the peace process while recovering from a brain tumour has impressed the voters most — even more than Mr Blair, whose approval ratings break all previous records for prime ministers in office.

Ms Mowlam's +64 rating

represents 74 per cent of voters saying they are satisfied with the job she has done in the past year and only 10 per cent dissatisfied.

Thirteen per cent said they did not have an opinion on her performance, indicating that she has been a highly

"visible" minister. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw and the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, are among the most popular. Mr Blunkett's whose net satisfaction rate is +39 per cent places him among this leading group.

Then comes a middle rank of cabinet ministers in terms of popularity. Leading this group is the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, with +25 per cent; followed by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett, at +20 per cent — though she had a high "invisibility" factor with 39 per cent saying they had no opinion on her performance.

Hard on her heels is Clare

Short (+19 per cent) but surprisingly she also shares a high "invisibility" rating with 43 per cent not able to rate her performance.

A strong indication that Labour is in trouble over health comes with the low ranking of Frank Dobson who is regarded as a strong performer within Westminster.

This is not shared among the voters who give him a net rating of only +13 per cent.

Women are more hostile to Mr Cook than men, suggesting that the adverse publicity over his marriage break-up may also be a crucial factor in his fall from popularity. Although Labour voters continue to believe he is doing a good job by a margin of two to

one, Tory voters are highly critical with 69 per cent saying they are dissatisfied with his performance. Not even Harriet Harman, who is expected to be demoted to David Clark's post from her job in social security, excites quite such strong feelings among Tory supporters.

Mr Mandelson will be dismayed to learn that he not only has a worse performance rating than Lord Irvine but he is also less "visible" than the Lord Chancellor in the public's mind. There is, however, a silver lining for the Minister without Portfolio — he appears to be popular among the young. The 18 to 24s were the only age group to say on balance he was doing a good job.

Heads together



Presidents Fidel Castro of Cuba and Nelson Mandela of South Africa at a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of GATT, during the ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva yesterday. Analysis, page 11. PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK AVOLAT

## GPs offered crisis talks

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**A** REBELLION by family doctors against the Government's plans to reform the National Health Service last night forced ministers to acknowledge the depth of concerns and offer talks on one of the key flashpoints.

The move, which failed to impress doctors' leaders, came ahead of publication today of a study — based on the biggest consultation exercise in the history of the service — suggesting that doubts about the plans go well beyond GPs.

With health ministers already on the rack over hospital waiting lists — certain to hit a major high tomorrow when the latest figures for England are announced — they cannot afford a full-scale clash over plans that were billed as saving the NHS and ending its internal market.

Unless the row is defused, it could set off an acrimonious showdown at the GPs' annual conference next month, a week before celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the NHS.

The study, based on the opinions of about 3,000 doctors, nurses, therapists and health managers who attended 17 seminars throughout Britain over the past three months, warns that ministers must proceed with caution because of widespread doubts about the viability of the plans as they stand.

David Hunter, a co-author of the study and professor of health policy and management at the Leeds-based Nuffield Institute for Health, said: "Primary care practitioners are very concerned about the speed, scale and complexity involved in establishing primary care groups."

With the consensus due to debate non co-operation with the Government's plans, the odds are stacked still higher by growing interest among a minority of GPs in going into private practice.

The first insurance product covering family doctor services has been launched this week by Norwich Union Healthcare.

At an adult premium of £10 a month, it is being marketed by the company as costing "a lot less than many people pay to care for their pets".

Under the Government's plans, the commissioning of health care is due to be taken over next April by "primary care groups" led by GPs and community nurses.



The groups, which will replace the current commissioning roles of health authorities and fundholding doctors, are supposed to be established within the next two months.

Each is intended to represent a population of about 100,000.

Although the British Medical Association was initially enthusiastic about the plans, grassroots resistance has forced it to become more sceptical and press for concrete assurances from ministers on questions being raised by its GP members.

Chief among these are that the groups will take responsibility and blame for the rationing of health care; that GPs will end up dipping into their funds for running their practices to meet shortfalls in funding for their patients' treatments; and that the plans are being rushed in without proper thought and preparation.

Alan Milburn, Health Minister, last night sought to placate the association's GP committee, which had demanded reassurances ahead of a meeting to page 3, column 7

## Nurses to be freed in days after Saudi pardon

Lucy Patton

**T**WO British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia after the murder of a colleague are to be freed with a pardon by King Fahd, it was confirmed last night.

Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, jailed in December 1996 after their arrest for the murder of Australian Yvonne Gilford, should be home in the next couple of days, the Saudi ambassador said in a statement in London last night.

Ghazi Algaibani's statement said: "In response to a petition from the families of the two British nurses convicted of murder in Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul-Aziz, issued an order commuting the sentence of the two nurses to the period they have already spent in jail and ordering their release."

"According to the judicial laws of Saudi Arabia, when the next of kin in a murder case waives the right to retribution, the court can impose a discretionary jail sentence which the king can commute."

"This is what happened in this case."

"I expect the two nurses to be back in the UK in the next couple of days."

Saudi police said Parry, aged 39, from Alton, Hampshire, who is unmarried, was having a lesbian relationship with Ms Gilford.

Parry, police said, was the prime mover in the murder, and McLauchlan her accomplice.

McLauchlan, aged 32, from Dundee, had left the

United Kingdom under a cloud after reports that she had been dismissed from a nursing post for misbehaviour — a suggestion her family was keen to scotch.

McLauchlan had planned to marry her fiancé, Grant Ferrie, in February last year. The couple finally married in a Saudi courtroom complex in a "unique and unprecedented ceremony".

The woman the British nurses were accused of murdering was described as "one of the last Florence Nightingales". Ms Gilford, aged 55, arrived in Saudi Arabia to work as a senior theatre nurse several months before the Britons.

She had worked around the world, and had reportedly moved to the Middle East because she believed it to be a safer place to live.

It is known she befriended Parry and McLauchlan when they arrived, but little else of their relationship is known.

Claims that she was involved in a lesbian relationship with Parry were vehemently denied by her brother, Frank Gilford.

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## Sketch

## Tossing a caber in the works



Simon Hoggart

THERE was a curiously sombrel air to Scottish Questions yesterday. I don't know why. Hears have just won the Scottish FA Cup — a great victory for a Scottish team, though probably the last major trophy the Scots will win this year.

No, it's all to do with the new assembly, Westminster now seems so irrelevant to the Scottish future. All those bitter arguments about minor road-widening schemes, planning permission for broken-down bottles — all will be swept away to the north. As Scots will discover soon, self-rule can be awfully dull.

John Maxton (Lab, Glasgow Cathcart) wanted to be assured that the assembly would contain "no funny business, in a multi-religious country no prayers, and now that the technology exists, electronic voting."

Where's the fun in that? It sounds like a weekly meeting of sales reps, without the laughs. Legislatures ought to have some funnery, some mumbo-jumbo, a spot of timeless tradition, even if it has to be invented.

I would insist that every member of the assembly wears a kilt, the speaker wears wood like Mel Gibson in Braveheart, and I would institute a half-hour sermon at the start of every session, preferably by a hell-fire Wee Free preacher.

Instead of electronic voting, every member would have to toss a caber into the "Yes" or "No" lobby, while the clerks played bagpipe skirls. Parliaments used a bit of mystique, or else they might as well be PTA meetings.

The Tories had turned out in some force, though lacking any MPs who were elected in Scotland they had to come from the glens of Reigate, the moors of Beaconsfield and the lochs of south Cambridge-shire. One of their front-bench spokesmen, Nigel Evans, is a Welshman who represents a seat in Lancashire.

They came with a message, to be endlessly repeated: that the Scottish National Party is now ahead of Labour in Scotland's opinion polls (by five points), and could well be the governing party under devolution. And how long would the Union last then, eh?

As Andrew Robathan (Con, Blair) pointed out, Labour's Donald Dewar might — instead of becoming the first First Minister of Scotland — wind up as its first leader of the opposition. Wouldn't the SNP then use procedure to weaken the Union?

(Of course they would, cheered on by that large and growing minority of English people who support Scottish independence.)

Henry McLeish, the devolution minister, went all stiff and formal. "At the end of the day, the nation wants Parliament to work for them, not for any political party." Really? Scottish politics must have changed an awful lot in the past couple of weeks.

Cathie MacDonald, another junior minister on the Scotland beat, tried a joke. Some Tory asked him to say there would be no nonsense about gender balance in the Scottish parties. This means having a system which requires as many women to be elected as men.

"The Opposition have managed gender balance with exactly zero," he said, to general confusion. What he meant was that, with none of their Westminster MPs elected in Scotland, the Tories had achieved a perfect balance between the sexes.

It was quite a good joke, but it had fallen to the ground to lie there, still and dead, as pitiful as a fledgling lost from the nest. I know the feeling well.

## Review

## Acting out poetry of fear and guilt

Michael Billington

Lyric, HammerSmith

Kinder to the leader

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Tory leader horrifies party's Europhiles with outright rejection of integration in attack on single currency

## Hague savages EU 'trap'

Michael White  
Political Editor

TORY leader William Hague last night revealed the depth of his hostility to further European integration when he warned that the EU single currency represents "1950s solutions for the problems of the 1940s", and could wreck the stability of the entire continent.

"The single currency is irreversible. One could find oneself trapped in the economic equivalent of a burning building with no exits," he predicted in terms which delighted his Euro-sceptic supporters and horrified the beleaguered single currency wing of his party.

Speaking in Fontainebleau outside Paris, he argued that the post-war consensus in favour of economic, strategic and political integration in Europe was outdated in a globalised hi-tech world — along with the interventionist "big-state" mindset which accompanied it.

In contrast to Tony Blair, who is courting EU leaders and British public opinion in favour of eventual membership of the euro, Mr Hague ended a day of talks with President Chirac and other French leaders by defiantly declaring in favour of "diversity, pluralism" and the nation state.

In business and government, "we are in fact in the age of the small unit", he insisted. "Some say this speech

is another example of the British causing trouble ... that European political integration is inevitable and that Britain must jump on board or miss the boat. I say to them that it is not inevitable."

In effect Mr Hague was deliberately using a speech, made in English to students at his old business school, to trample on EU orthodoxy. "Push political integration too far and accountability and democracy become impossible to sustain," he told students from 50 countries.

Moreover, the weaker the intellectual case for the euro becomes, "so those who advance the case have become more defensive", he asserted.

The speech prompted the leading Europhile Tory MP, Ian Taylor, who quit the front

bench over Europe, to denounce it as irrelevant, adding: "It sets the Conservative Party back." Euro-sceptics called it "spot on".

In the past 72 hours, pro-Europeans and former cabinet ministers Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have given pre-emptive warnings to Conservatives not to reopen Euro-wounds which have begun to heal. Mr Hague has chosen to ignore them, instead giving vent to more Euro-sceptic views than the fragile shadow cabinet consensus had previously allowed him to risk.

The challenge for Europe is global free trade, flexible and competitive economies, and, above all, widening the EU to include the former Soviet bloc, he argued. Lady

Thatcher says much the same. Setting his party against the single currency — due to start for 11 of the 15 EU members on January 1 — Mr Hague predicted that its associated "one size, fit all" approach to interest rates would increase tensions between states.

He said integration would control national governments. Just as Asian states without a democratic safety valve have erupted in violence, so European elections are starting to show "disturbing signs of the rise of extremism", he said.

The nub of his critique is that 10 years after the cold war and 50 years after the second world war, Europe is stuck with outdated remedies

which the EU's "symbols and trappings of nationality" cannot hide. He saw European integration as a 1950s answer to the strife of the 1940s rather than the way forward in the 1990s.

"I do not believe a sense of political community in Europe will exist in my lifetime. But I am certain of one thing: if we establish common political institutions without, or at least before, such a sense develops, we will drive our people further apart."

"There is a limit to European integration. We are near that limit now. Push political union beyond its limits and you jeopardise the very peace, stability and prosperity which Europe's post-war statements were so anxious to secure," Mr Hague declared.

## Blair back in Ulster to seal peace poll

John Mulholland  
Ireland Correspondent

TONY Blair will return to Northern Ireland today in a final scramble to seal victory for the Yes campaign at Friday's referendum on the Good Friday Agreement. He will stay overnight, and is expected to be joined by the Tory leader, William Hague.

Last night David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and John Hume, leader of the SDLP, shared a platform — for the first time since the agreement was signed — at a concert at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. They were given a rousing reception by 2,000 Protestant and Catholic children when introduced at the end of the concert which featured Ash, from Downpatrick, Co Down, and U2 from Dublin.

U2's lead singer, Bono, had earlier joined the two men in urging a Yes vote. He said to vote No was to play into the hands of extremists.

Mr Trimble said the aim was to show that centrist politics was the way ahead. "This concert is an excellent idea. It indicates the optimism in Northern Ireland now and it represents the mood of the future."



Bono, of U2, is flanked by SDLP leader John Hume (left) and Unionist leader David Trimble in calling for a Yes vote

PHOTOGRAPH: WILLIAM CHERRY

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, was dismissive of the concert and pointed out that Bono had once burned the Union Flag on stage in the United States. He believed Mr Trimble and Mr Hume were likely to follow suit.

Mr Paisley said: "Mr Trimble has joined the pan-nationalist front. He is going to rock and roll. He is already rocking anyway, and he will be rolling after May 22."

Bob McCartney, the UK Unionist leader, said: "Mr Trimble and Mr Hume make very curious bedfellows. One

could call them the odd couple."

The latest opinion poll, the biggest yet, increased jitters among those pushing for a comfortable majority for the peace deal. The Belfast Telegraph and UTV poll put those voting Yes on 52 per cent, with 20 per cent opposed and a quarter undecided.

But the survey was carried out between May 8 to 10, before the appearance 10 days ago at Sinn Féin's conference of the Balcombe Street IRA gang, and before loyalist killer Michael Stone's attendance at a political rally. These

events have badly knocked the Yes lobby.

The Yes vote has dipped sharply since a Guardian poll, taken soon after the deal was struck, suggested that 73 per cent of voters were in favour, 14 per cent against and 13 per cent undecided.

The Irish Times last week found 56 per cent backing the deal, 25 per cent against and 19 per cent undecided. Its findings were in line with private polling for the Northern Ireland Office.

Mr Blair and Mr Trimble believe that anything less than a 70 per cent majority

for the deal would indicate Unionists split down the middle, and could signal gridlock in the proposed assembly.

The Belfast Telegraph poll indicated that Protestants were split three equal ways and Catholics were overwhelmingly in favour of the deal.

Mr Trimble, meanwhile, welcomed attempts by Jeffrey Donaldson, the Ulster Unionist MP whom Mr Blair had tried to woo back into the Yes campaign, to build bridges.

Mr Donaldson said he had no quarrel with Mr Trimble. He confirmed he would be

voting No but said he would rally around Mr Trimble's leadership as long as the party adopted a strong position against Sinn Féin taking its places in the power-sharing executive if the IRA failed to decommission its weapons.

Loyalists, meanwhile, were being blamed for a crude bomb attempt on a tourist office in Dublin. It contained ball-bearings and would have caused serious injury had staff failed to spot it.

Victim's mother, page 5; Jonathan Freedland, page 6

## Tax-raising tactics backfire with rise in inflation

Mark Atkinson  
Economics Correspondent

THE Government's attempts to damp down inflationary pressure by raising taxes were in danger of backfiring yesterday after they led directly to the highest rate of price increases for six years.

Although the Treasury insisted last month's leap in the annual rate of inflation to 4 per cent from March's 3.5 per cent was "temporary", there were fears that it could become a benchmark for wage bargainers, threatening a pay and price spiral.

"We thought there was some easing of pay pressure as inflation edged down earlier this year. But with this number, bargaining will be

nudged up for at least a couple of months," said Alastair Hatcher at pay experts Income Data Services.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at finance house Nikko Europe, said: "The Chancellor's repeated statements about how private sector pay increases will lead to higher borrowing rates looks increasingly odd when it is his own policy decisions which are forcing up the RPI (retail prices index) and pay demands."

With the key high street components of the RPI, such as household goods and clothing, falling in April, the Office for National Statistics, which publishes the data, said the main reason for the rise in the headline rate of inflation was Budget tax changes.

Chief among these was the

increase in the annual rate of inflation.

Most of the rest of the rise was due to the Budget hikes in petrol duty, which also contributed to the increase in the underlying rate of inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, to 3 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

In its quarterly Inflation Report, published last week, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which has day-to-day control over interest rates, anticipated the upward blip in the RPI but said the outlook over the next two years was benign.

Repeating the message yesterday, the Treasury said: "The temporary rise in inflation was expected this month. It's consistent with the Budget forecast and the short-

term impact of Budget tightening. Our forecast is for underlying inflation to fall back in July and to remain on track to meet the Government's inflation target over the forecast period."

However, City analysts said the MPC and Treasury would be privately worried about the danger of a continued climb in average earnings, already rising at almost 5 per cent a year.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist at London Bond Broking, warned that further interest rate rises were likely to stop the Government's 2.5 per cent target being breached. "Hopes for a 'soft landing' for the UK economy are now fanciful," he said.

The bad news on inflation was offset by separate ONS/Treasury figures showing a

surprisingly large debt repayment of £3.4 billion by the Government in April at the start of the new financial year, up from £350 million in the same month last year.

Although the year-on-year improvement partly reflected an erratically high debt repayment by public corporations, it was also due to continued tight control of public spending and buoyant tax receipts, pointing to an undershoot of the £2.5 billion budget deficit pencilled in by the Treasury for 1998/9.

Analysts said the Government's fiscal position was now on a sustainable long term path but cautioned that the rapid inflow of tax receipts added to overheating worries in the short term.

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## Students' double bluff



The Leeds art students in Cayton Bay, Scarborough, yesterday, their stand-in for Estrepona on the Costa del Sol

PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY BARTHOLOMEW and IAN BRADSHAW

# Life, art and the Costa del Cayton

Martin Wainwright

LIFE — and art — isn't always what it seems. Yesterday, 13 students led the way to a windowless cabin where they had ingeniously recreated the Costa del Sol and triggered a national debate on art, morality and the youth of today.

The abandoned nightclub, named the Rendezvous, at Cayton Sands, just south of Scarborough, along with two bars and a private suburban swimming pool in Leeds had successfully hoodwinked six dons, 50 guests at an exhibition premiere and the local, national and international media.

Either in outrage or admiration, it was forgotten that the students had taken literally instructions to "come up with something thought-provoking" for their third-year Fine Art degree project. Given a £1,000 grant by Leeds student union, and collecting another £800 sponsorship, the 13 had supposedly formed an artistic ensemble called Going Places and skived off for a week at Estrepona as an example of "performance art."

"I did have my suspicions but in the wrong direction," said Leeds head of fine art Ken Hay. "When the exhibition opened in a room empty except for a video camera and a bowl of sangria, I thought they were going to film their lecturers getting drunk."

Instead, he and the other guests were taken by coach to Leeds-Bradford airport, to greet the alleged artistic holidaymakers, tanned, relaxed and coming out of Customs for a celebratory final round in the bar. In the general amazement, no one thought to check whether the group had been on the charter plane, or indeed whether there was a charter plane at all.

"Actually, we'd been holed up in our flats in Leeds for a week, only coming out in disguise in the evening," said Sarah Thornton, aged 29. "We

hired a tanning bed and took turns on it, and found locations for convincing pictures."

The most graphic image, amid protests about taxpayers' money, was of the students lounging in the sun in front of an artistic 'Spanish mural'. "And here it is," said Sian Jones, making her way with Susannah Wesley and Christian Hersey across the Rendezvous's weedy forecourt.

"Rather Gandhi, we think. At any rate it goes with the club's attempt at Yorkshire Spanish architecture and its rather Moorish tower. Another good thing about this is that it may bring more people to Cayton Sands. Art criticism is much too metropolitan and Scarborough's a really great place."

"Art should be available for everyone and this certainly has been," said John Crossley. "How many people would have come if we'd just held an ordinary exhibition?"

Other Going Places members, like Jennifer Larkin and Matt Dunning, aired the age-old artist's complaint against commercialisation. They said: "All anyone seemed to care about was us supposedly wasting £1,800. In fact, we haven't spent any of it — it's all in a bank account earning interest, while we saved up for our trip to Scarborough."

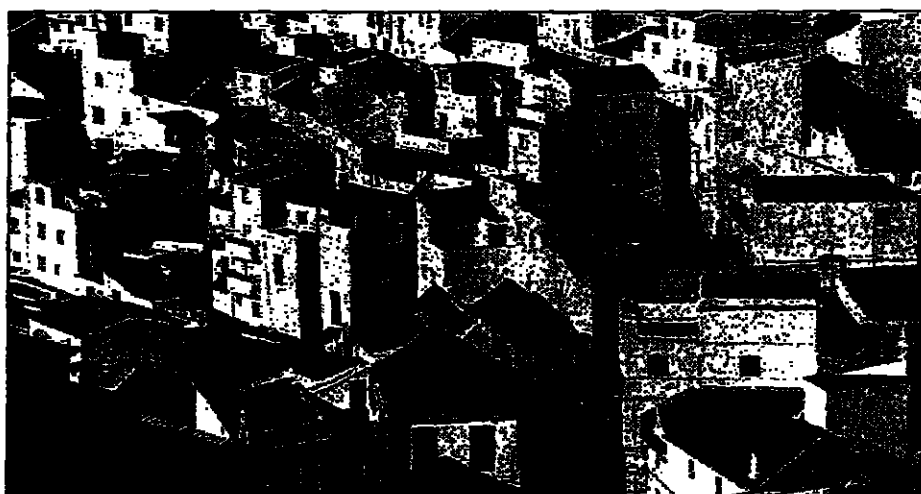
Leeds student union, which initially led attacks on the "holiday" as disastrous for the university's image, was embarrassed but mollified at the prospect of the money coming back or going — in what Going Places considers a further extension of performance art — to appropriate charities. And the people who finally matter — the dons with their marking powers — were happy too.

"The whole thing has been masterly," said Mr Hay, after final nervous checks against the chance of a triple bluff. "They have got everyone talking about the very things — the nature of art and its relationship with life — which lie at the heart of the course."

They said they were here . . .

but they were actually here . . .

and yes, it really is art



Adrian Scobie  
Art Critic

THERE is no gold standard in art any more. We can no longer come to an agreement about what's good and what isn't as there is no universal aesthetic.

What we see as wonderful art may not be wonderful in other cultures. Put a work of art elsewhere and it can seem meaningless. So we can only judge art now in terms of rigour and context.

What were its intentions and how do they relate to specifics of situation?

If people are going on holiday and calling it art, why not? Leisure is a huge global industry and culture is in fact a part of that industry and a big tourist puller. So it is a natural topic for artists to explore and so far an unexploited one.

Historically, art students have always been iconoclastic. They have always played games with expectations and gestures are part of those

games. So many universities are so pompous about their status and profile it's fun to see a hoax pricking that balloon of pomposity.

These students are following in the spirit of spoof, the fine tradition of Marcel Duchamp. They have pulled off a fantastic work, so much better than William Boyd's recent hoax of an unknown artist called Nat Tate. It has wrong-footed everyone and played games with expectations and prejudices.

## Jakarta's protests at 'point of no return'

Andrew Higgins in Jakarta

BY THE time President Suharto shuffled across the red carpet of the presidential palace yesterday to announce that he would go — but only at his own leisurely pace — the former general who has ruled Indonesia since 1966 had already been deposed across town in parliament.

Students clamoured on to the domed roof, swarmed through the corridors and, in a debating chamber shorn of its mandatory presidential portrait, took turns striding to the podium to declare themselves in charge.

Today, though, the country faces the real, and far less playful, test of who controls the capital of Jakarta and the 200 million people beyond.

Leaders of Indonesia's swelling but disorganised opposition have vowed to rally up to a million people in a capital scarred by mayhem last week and now studded with tanks and heavily armed troops still technically loyal to the president.

"He [Suharto] will be defeated very soon," said Amien Rais, head of the country's second largest Islamic organisation and the driving force behind today's demonstrations, which risk another — and possibly even more destructive — spasm of the violence that has claimed some 500 lives and wrecked 3,000 buildings.

Declaring that he was "more than ready" to replace Mr Suharto himself, Mr Rais said protesters "have reached the point of no return."

Indonesia's explosive crisis, triggered by more than three months of student protests, fuelled by mounting economic distress and inflamed by the shooting of six students last Tuesday at Trisakti University, is now careering towards a dangerous denouement.

For the students encamped yesterday in the vast parliamentary complex, though, the occupation of the political heart of President Suharto's so-called New Order regime was cause for joyous celebration. Tanks that had guarded the entrance only a day before had gone, leaving only a thin perimeter line of soldiers.

"No more corruption, collusion and nepotism. In the name of Allah we want a new President," declared a huge banner strung from two flagpoles on the green roof.

Downstairs in the debating chamber they already had one. In fact, they had many, as students stepped to the podium, each with their own

agenda but united in calls for Mr Suharto, aged 78, to go.

Sitting in velvet armchairs reserved until yesterday for steadfast Suharto supporters, classmates watched as a uniformed student from the Maritime Academy danced a jig on a desk, and another did an impersonation of General Wiranto, defence minister, armed forces commander and the man who will today determine their fate — and possibly the president's.

The only emphatic vote of support yesterday for the president's televised promise of fresh elections came from dealers on the floor of the stock exchange where the index stopped plunging to rise six percentage points.

At the University of Indonesia, the focus of student protests in 1966 that brought Mr

BRITONS joined the stampede of foreigners and ethnic Chinese to Jakarta's Sukarno International Airport yesterday after being warned by the British embassy in advance of today's protests to leave "while normal commercial means are available".

Britons urged out, page 15

Suharto to power, students crowded into the sport club to watch as he promised to set up a "reform cabinet" and hold new elections, but dodged the question of when.

His environment minister, Juwono Sudarsono, said later that a new parliament would come in three to six months.

Too late: "I don't believe him. I don't trust him any more," said Dewi Safrani, a 26-year-old student of advertising. "Maybe we should get rid of him constitutionally this time and I don't think people care."

In the occupied parliament, students simply removed Mr Suharto's image, even from a conference room where seven representatives from the military's parliamentary faction were meeting visitors.

Major-General Ahmad Rostandi, assumed his audience the armed forces, known as Abri, wanted change. "There might be some differences of opinion but let's work this out . . . Don't push Abri so much. We agree on reform."

The students sang a huge Islamic prayer and handshakes. Moments later, a caretaker arrived carrying the banished president and put him back on the wall.

Leader comment, page 9

## Doctors offered NHS crisis talks

continued from page 1  
ing it is holding tomorrow. In a letter to John Chisholm, the committee's chairman, he said he recognised that "change brings concerns" and he was happy to offer certain guarantees.

The minister promised that GPs' independent contractor status would remain unaffected; that they would retain freedom to prescribe drugs and refer patients as they thought fit; and that any over-riding of a group's budget would be "managed within health authorities' general allocations" — authorities being the conduit for funding the groups.

On the issue of use of practice funds for patient care, once all money was in one pot, Mr Milburn proposed talks before next month's conference on a compromise which would "provide reassurance for GPs whilst maintaining the principle of a unified budget".

Dr Chisholm, who has warned that the BMA could call a ballot on the plans, expressed disappointment at the

letter. He said the reassurances went nowhere near far enough on a range of issues, particularly the failure to agree to "ring-fence" practices' funding for staff, premises and computers.

"The doctors I represent will be more fearful and angry about the adverse consequences for patient care in the absence of the urgent action from the minister which we requested," Dr Chisholm said.

Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, is due today to address a conference on primary care groups. The event is being organised by the NHS Confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts and which is publishing the study of health professionals' views on the Government's plans.

Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Services Management, said health managers were struggling to cope with what she called the "breakneck restructuring of the NHS" on top of pressure to cut waiting lists.

## Shields lifts Orange Prize out of ghetto

Clare Longridge

THE best-selling Canadian novelist Carol Shields last night added the £30,000 Orange Prize for Fiction to her achievements when the award's judges plumped for the unusually safe choice of Larry's Party, the author's seventh book.

The women-only prize — sometimes characterised as a consolation for ghettoised

writers who need a leg-up in the overcrowded market — had been snubbed by the Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer, who refused to allow her book The House Gun to be considered. Anita Brookner has also dismissed the notion of a women-only prize.

Of this year's shortlist, Shields least needs a helping hand. She won a Pulitzer Prize for The Stone Diaries, which was also shortlisted for the Booker.

Now 63, she grew up in Illinois but lives in Winnipeg. She wrote her first novel at 40. Larry's Party is about a man in mid-life crisis whose choices and confusions are expressed metaphorically in his passion for the mazes he designs for a living.

Guardian reviewer Laura Cumming wrote: "Larry has a mid-life crisis to match anything in Updike or Amis. His maze craze transforms into a business; he moves to affluent

Oak Park; the chablis is always chilled. Yet he suffers from low-lying woe. Hidden on the back wall of his retina is a quizzical caption in flowing script: 'How did this happen?'"

Spanning 20 years of Larry's life, the book has been described as a "lost and found odyssey for the late 20th century". Reviewers called it "bitterly funny" and "terribly poignant".

Shields is the second North

American to win the prize, after Canadian poet Anne Michaels triumphed last year.

Only one British novelist, Pauline Melville, was shortlisted, for her Whitbread Prize-winning first novel, The Ventriloquist's Tale. Other shortlisted authors were Kirsten Bakis for Lives of the Monster Dogs; Ann Patchett for The Magician's Assistant; Delia Purcell for Love Like Hate Adore; and Anita Shreve for The Weight of Water.

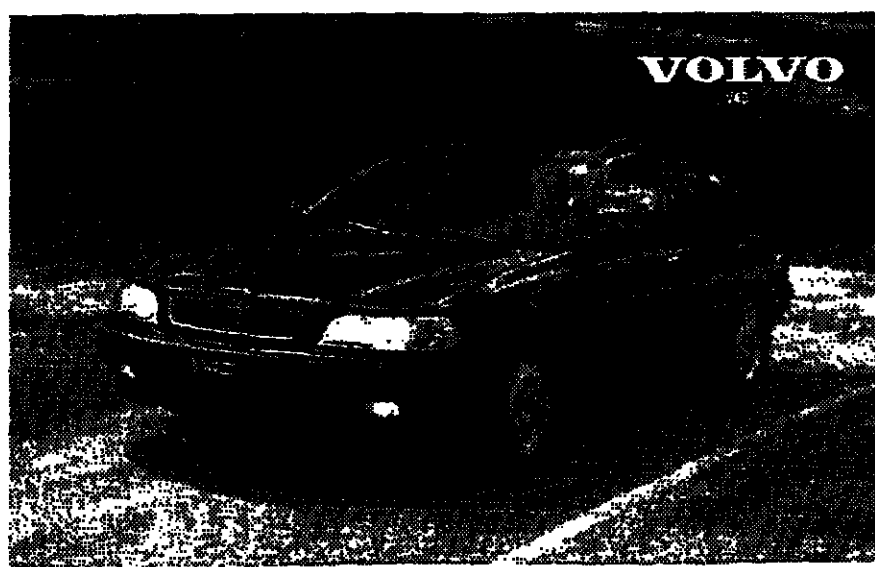


Carol Shields: 'safe choice'

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# Doctors given duty to explain

Sarah Boseley  
Health correspondent

**D**OCTORS are to be held accountable for explaining to patients or their families what has gone wrong when a patient unexpectedly suffers damage or dies while in their care.

New guidelines from the General Medical Council, which are expected to be passed at its meeting today, will make it plain to doctors that they have a duty to discuss what has happened and if appropriate, offer an apology.

"These are standards against which doctors can expect to be judged," said Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC, yesterday. "Our general philosophy is openness and honesty."

The GMC says its guidelines go further than the law requires. Will and Diane Powell believe doctors covered up mismanagement of the illness of their son, Robbie, who died of Addison's disease eight years ago, at the age of 10.

Their battle took them to the High Court, which ruled that although doctors were under a moral obligation to tell parents how their child died, they were under no legal obligation.

"Our new guidance recognises that doctors have wider professional and ethical responsibilities than the law requires," said Sir Donald.

"Patients have a right to expect that doctors will explain things to them fully and honestly, especially in the unlikely event that something goes wrong in their treatment. This is why we intend to make this an explicit responsibility for all doctors by including it in the new edition of our core guidance, Good Medical Practice."

But doctors will not be required to incriminate themselves if there is a possibility of criminal proceedings. They are urged to take out professional insurance, in case of claims against them.

The GMC is also instructing doctors to take part in audits of their success or failure in treating patients, and to improve their performance if it is lagging behind that of other doctors. This issue is at the core of the long-running case of the Bristol heart surgeons. The GMC's disciplinary committee is investigating allegations that the surgeons failed to take account of the fact that more of their child patients were dying during certain open-heart procedures than at other hospitals.

The GMC's Standards Committee noted "some reservations about the practicability of this guidance; but felt that we should be seen to take the lead by setting the agenda for doctors, rather than wait for the Government to impose standards of this kind," its draft document says.

A new system for catching what the GMC calls dysfunctional doctors has already been instituted by the GMC. Doctors who are thought to be falling short can be referred to it for performance assessment. If they are found to be failing they can be referred for retraining or even, ultimately, struck off the register.

The changes the GMC is overseeing are radical, said Sir Donald. "This is a revolution in medicine. There will be a rocky ride in places, but good will come of it."

The future held more changes. Patients were already attempting to diagnose their own ailments, using the huge amount of information available on the Internet, and even naming the drugs they wanted their doctors to prescribe.

"I think we're only beginning to glimpse the impact it will have on our lives," he said. "It will put more power in the hands of the patient."

But the doctor/patient relationship would strengthen, he believed, as doctors would be able to interpret patients' information for patients.



Captain Richard Landall arriving for the court martial. He denies indecently assaulting and harassing two women. Right, Shelly Brazier, one of his alleged victims. PHOTOGRAPH (RIGHT) NICK RAY

## Army chaplain denies groping women

Rosario Nicoll

**T**HE first army chaplain to appear at a court martial yesterday denied groping and harassing two women.

A military court in Tidworth, Wiltshire, heard that Captain Richard Landall wolf-whistled at one woman and grabbed the breast and bottom of another. Capt Landall, aged 41, wrote to Shelly Brazier, 37, after his "flirtatious nature" after her husband Sean, a fusilier with the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment, banded him from their house at the Celle army base in Germany.

"I was deeply saddened to hear I had offended you with my whistling and innuendoes," he said. "I'm sorry for causing you any offence and embarrassment."

Lieutenant Colonel Roger Lewis, prosecuting, told the court Capt Landall, who joined the army in 1992, had made several improper advances towards another, unnamed, woman in November 1997, seven months after his remarks to Mrs Brazier. He said the victim had sought help about marital problems. "The padre sat next to the woman on a settee. He put his arm around her waist under her jumper and squeezed her breast," Lt Col Lewis said.

That night he slept on the couple's sofa and then sent a postcard apologising and pointing out that he was distressed and upset because his own marriage had broken up.

The court heard on another occasion he rubbed his groin against her as she bathed her children. And less than a week later, Capt Landall turned up at the woman's house when she was watching a video with one of her children.

"She bent down to change the video and as she did so, the padre knelt beside her and inserted his hand into the back of the jogging trousers she was wearing and put his hand into her knickers," said Lt Col Lewis. "As he did this, her friend arrived and saw the two of them there. The padre made some excuse to leave."

Mrs Brazier, who is deeply religious, told the hearing she had gone to see the padre because she needed to find a church to go to.

As time went on she said he had shown more interest than she felt comfortable with. He told her she was beautiful and said he liked redheads.

Mrs Brazier told the court that the padre had "sickened" him while they were serving in Bosnia. "He commented on my wife's hair and asked me if she was a natural redhead," he said.

"I said she had dyed her hair so many times it was difficult to tell. What he insinuated was, was she a natural redhead down there?"

When Capt Landall returned to Germany he visited Mrs Brazier twice. On the second occasion, he talked to her at some length about his own marital difficulties, using filthy language, the prosecutor said.

He said it was a shame he did not have a wife like her and described how he had found some underwear of his wife's which Mrs Brazier would have looked lovely in.

She decided to complain but as she walked along the road with her husband and friends

she heard a wolf whistle and a cry of "Hello gorgeous". The padre was driving past in his car.

Mrs Brazier told the court that Landall did not act like she believed a man of God should. "I would have liked to see him more godly. I found that he was offensive," she said.

Capt Landall denies four charges of indecent assault and one charge of harassment towards the unnamed woman.

He also denies harassing Mr and Mrs Brazier, and of conduct to the prejudice of good order by undue familiarity towards Mrs Brazier. The hearing continues.

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## Gallery reopens with art to satisfy palate

David Ward

**T**HE Tate Gallery in Liverpool has been closed for more than a year and Adrian Henri, Scouser, poet and art critic, has missed it. "A big chunk was taken out of my life," he said yesterday as he mooched round the refurbished and enlarged gallery which opens on Saturday. "I live just up the hill and I had got used to dropping in, ignoring the groans of a mannequin under a sofa in a work by Tony Oursler called The Most Beautiful Thing I've Never Seen, he suggested he was surprised by the extra space created on four floors of the former bonded warehouse at the Albert Dock."

"The staff have learned a lot from doing audience surveys," he said. "On the one hand, people want innovation and on the other they want to see their old favourites." The



Mark Dion defied logic with his work SOS, half a trawler sinking through the floor. PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFEE

Liverpool Tate opened in 1988 and attracted 5 million visitors in nine years, way above predictions and a strain on the policy tea room on a mezzanine floor.

The top floor has been converted and space has been opened up on other floors to bring an extra 30 per cent of the building into use. The café has been moved to the

ground floor and spills out on to the docks. The gallery is preparing for 800,000 visitors this year and a million in 2000.

"The Tate here started out as an austere and high-minded place which served enthusiasts of high art. But staff found they had a family audience coming in. They realised that priorities have

changed and they have faced up to them," said Mr Henri. The renovation and expansion has cost nearly £7 million, with £3.8 million donated by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the opening coincides with the launch of art-transpennine, an 11-week show of international contemporary art stretching in and out of 30 galleries and other spaces from Liverpool to Hull. Organisers say that at 130 miles it will be the longest exhibition of its kind.

The £2.5 million show, presenting the work of more than 50 international artists, has attracted £1.7 million in lottery money and has been hailed as an example of how the nation's bi-weekly flutter can fund creative work and buildings to hang pictures in.

Exhibits include Taro Chimura's Super Lamb Banana, installed near the Live Building at the Pier Head. The Tate's top floor is given over to six other art-transpennine works, including one which is edible. Untitled (Portrait of Dad) by the late Felix Gonzalez-Torres is a pile of sweets representing the weight of the artist's father. Visitors are encouraged to take one and stocks will be replenished, ensuring the crucial mass is maintained.

Mark Dion has defied logistics to install SOS, half a trawler sinking through the floor surrounded by symbolic flotsam and jetsam.

For the reopening, the Tate has brought from London its collection of Cubist art — 40 paintings, sculptures, drawings and collages by masters such as Braque and Picasso.

## Boy George announces film of his life

Dan Glaister on an attempt to give the big screen treatment to a 1980s music icon

**W**EARING delicate mascara, eye shadow and just a dab of blusher, a familiar and still glamorous figure popped up in Cannes yesterday. Yes, it was Boy George, here among the cigar chomping moguls, sharks and wheeler-dealers to announce the forthcoming film version of his life story.

"There will be lots of sex, drugs and hair," 36-year-old Boy George told a press conference. "It will be like Valley of the Dolls but with

a happy ending. The film will show sex, growing up in suburbia, getting rich quickly and the pitfalls of fame."

Take It Like A Man, based on his autobiography, is being made by BBC Films in association with an as yet unnamed foreign partner for around £5 million. With first time director Kfir Yefet, the film will begin production later this year.

The feature, whose story will start in 1973, coincides with a revival of Culture

Club, Boy George's chart topping group of the 1980s. The band has reformed and is to tour in the US and release a new album.

Boy George's book aroused controversy when it was published and led to a court case between the author and Kirk Brandon, a contemporary and former singer.

Boy George alleged in the book that the two had been lovers, an account denied by Brandon, who issued a writ for malicious falsehood. Brandon lost the court case.

"Kirk will feature in the film," Boy George said yesterday. "But he will probably be an amalgam of sev-

eral characters. As far as I am concerned I won the case, and that matter is settled."

Other characters who have fallen out with George in the past will also feature in the film, which promises to pull no punches in its depiction of his journey from growing up in south London to finding stardom and eventually beating heroin addiction.

The cast, however, has yet to be decided. Co-producer Erica Spellman-Silverman said: "We want very much to try to discover somebody new. It is very important the audience comes in and sees George, not an actor."

Cracks found in glass roof of £120m station built for Eurosta

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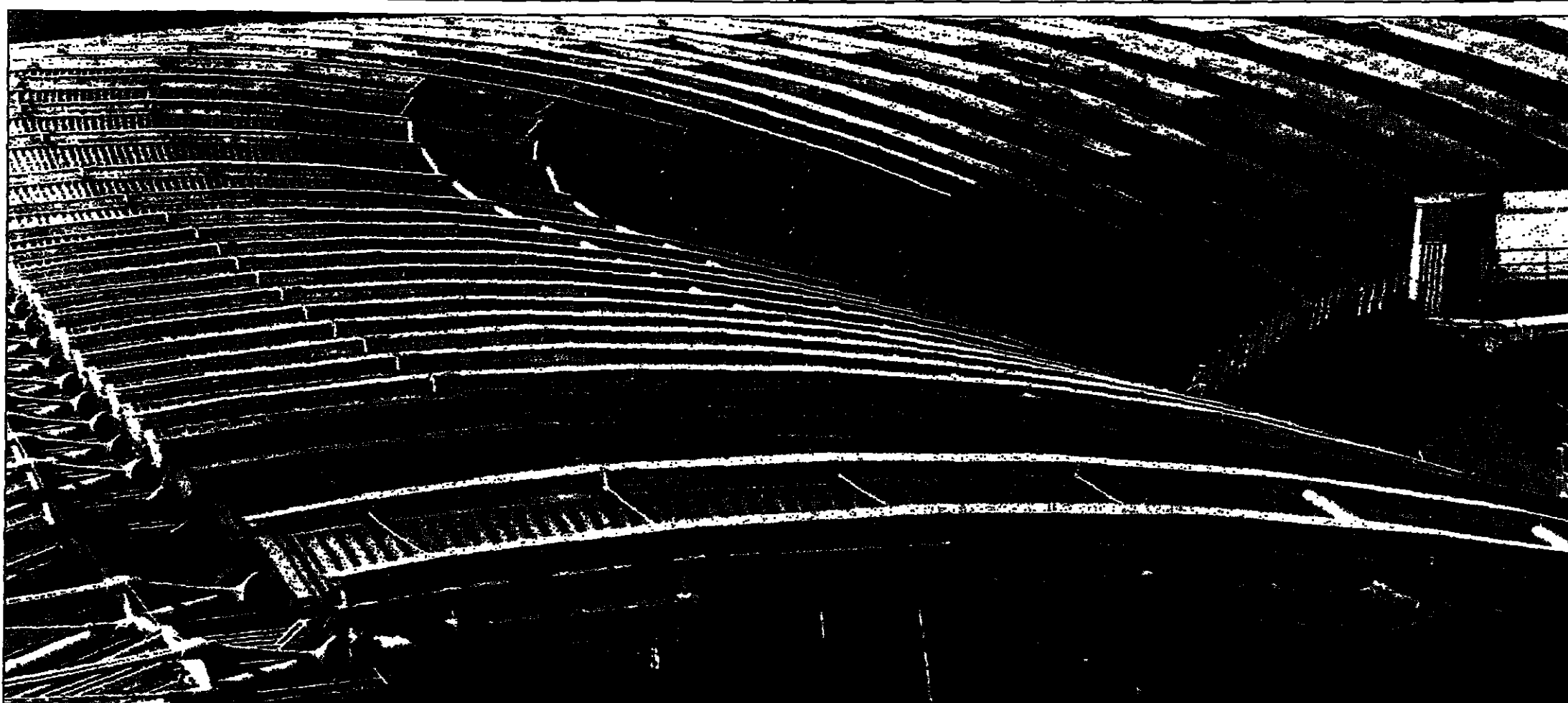
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## Cracks found in glass roof of £120m station built for Eurostar

The serpentine roof of Waterloo International, completed five years ago

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER



Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

**R**EPAIRS to the home of Eurostar, the award-winning £120 million Waterloo International station, could lead to the vast glass roof being replaced five

years after it was built, construction industry sources confirmed last night. Most of the 30,000 passengers who use the London station each day have failed to notice the white tarpaulins that have been fixed under the roof along the length of the concourse.

They are to protect them against possible injury after cracks were discovered in glass panels overhead. The station's owner, London and Continental Railways, admitted: "A routine inspection detected that a small number of panels were cracked. The tarpaulins are

there to protect rail users from the unlikely event of falling glass." Ove Arup, the consulting engineers, is investigating the cause. Yesterday it declined to comment but said its report should be complete within weeks.

According to the Contract Journal today, the cracks could have been caused either during maintenance work or by defects in the glass, known as nickel sulphide inclusions. Industry sources said that if defects were confirmed, it was possible that all 10,000 square metres of glass panels would need replacing. The

sources said that the microscopic defects, usually triggered by rapid changes in temperature, could cause panels to fail unpredictably. London and Continental said it was "prepared to do whatever is necessary" to repair the roof, but would not comment ahead of the report.

The graceful glass and steel roof, supported on a network of tubular trusses, is the crowning glory of the magnificent 400 metre long station; its spacious and spectacular building is designed to cater for up to 6,000 passengers an hour during peak periods. The terminal handles interna-

tional rail traffic between London, Paris and Brussels through the Channel tunnel. The station's architect, Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, won a Royal Institute of British Architects award for excellence for its design. The firm would not comment yesterday.

## Children 'losing touch with their grandparents'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**C**HILDREN from middle class families are losing touch with their grandparents because of their parents' time and work pressures and because extended families increasingly live far apart. The number of young middle class parents who see their own mothers at least once a week has dropped almost 20 per cent since the mid-1980s to fewer than four in 10, a survey today says. The survey report, published by the Family Policy Studies Centre, says the number seeing their fathers each week has fallen 15 per cent to barely a third. The trend is also evident in telephone contact. Fewer

than half the middle class parents surveyed said they spoke to their fathers by telephone at least weekly — again, a 15 per cent fall since the mid-1980s. But contact, both visiting and telephoning, within working class families has remained unchanged or risen. The report says geographical separation explains the findings in part. The number of middle class workers with children who lived more than an hour's journey from their parents was found to have risen 12 per cent since the mid-1980s. Although most young parents were found to be still in regular contact with their immediate family, the number reporting weekly visits by or to their mothers had dropped to 50 per cent from 69 per cent in 1986.

Those saying they saw their fathers each week had fallen from 52 per cent to 45; those who saw an adult brother or sister — the children's uncle or aunt — had slipped from 51 per cent to 45. Among non-manual workers, the number seeing their mother and father each week had dropped respectively from 58 per cent to 39 and from 51 to 38. Among manual workers the equivalent proportions had risen from 62 per cent to 65 and from 54 to 58. The research, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was carried out among more than 2,000 people who took part in the wider British Social Attitudes survey in 1996. Their responses were compared with those of a comparable sample from 1986.

Distance limits elderly Scottish grandmother to one visit each year

**F**OR Sue Block, aged 42, a modern languages teacher and former merchant banker, seeing her mother is an annual occurrence: restricted to a week at Christmas when the 60-year-old travels to her daughter's home in Exeter, Devon, writes Sarah Hall. But the two women — who speak each week on the telephone — are separated not by acrimony, but distance. For Sue's mother — the only grandparent of



Sue Block with James and Amanda PHOTOGRAPH: GUY NEWMAN

her children, James, aged 10, and Amanda, 13 — lives 450 miles away in Helensburgh, outside Glasgow. Sue, who relished growing up next door to her maternal grandmother, said: "I only see my mother once

a year... She is quite elderly now and finds it difficult to travel so she comes down less often. "It is a long distance for us to travel, as well, but I do speak to her each week — and feel really quite guilty if I miss that." She added: "I do feel the burden of keeping an eye on her falls on my older sister, who lives in the same town as my mother." She regrets that her children see so little of their grandmother. "I do think it's quite sad for my children — particularly since my mother is their only surviving grandparent. I wouldn't say they hardly know her, but there just isn't that closeness. "I do know she misses them terribly, as well." The distance from her

mother was an inevitable result of pursuing her career. "I went to university in Scotland but, when I graduated, I moved to London for job reasons: I knew I wanted a profession in banking, the job opportunities in the west of Scotland were very limited. "When the children were young we decided we wanted to bring them up in the west country." The question of returning to Scotland did not arise. "I'd just trained as a teacher and wouldn't have been able to teach there." She added: "I do regret not being able to see my mother more often. The ideal situation would be where you're not in each other's pockets, but you're close enough for regular visits."

## Teenage victim's mother urges yes vote



Despite anger at the campaign to free her son's convicted army killers, Jean McBride sees the agreement as Ulster's way ahead

**John Mullin on a grieving woman's fury she will put aside for the sake of her surviving daughters and 10 grandchildren**

**J**EAN McBride will stop off at the Christian Brothers' Edmund Rice school near her home on her way to the High Court in Belfast on Friday. She will vote yes to the Good Friday agreement, then go on to learn the fate of the British soldiers who killed her son.

Mrs McBride, 46, is angry. She feels that a high profile campaign, which includes Independent MP Martin Bell, for the release of Scots Guardsmen Mark Wright and James Fisher is misrepresenting the facts surrounding the shooting of her only son, Peter, 18, in September 1992. But she is prepared to see the soldiers freed. Mrs McBride said yesterday: "They should come out, but only on the same terms as all the other prisoners serving time for crimes committed during the troubles. They should not get any preferential special treatment. What they did to Peter was cold-blooded murder."

The accelerated release programme proposed under the agreement means that paramilitary prisoners still in jail in two years time will be released on licence, so long as the organisations they belong to remain on ceasefire. The two soldiers would have served eight years if the same sentence is applied to them. Mr Justice Coghlin will announce on Friday whether the pair's plea for parole should be heard before October, the date set last year by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. That was already well ahead of usual practice, but they applied for judicial review. Four soldiers have been convicted of murder while on duty in Northern Ireland. Nineteen have been charged. Security forces have killed 400 people during 30 years of the troubles. At a meeting in Brussels the ministers rejected calls from Ireland, Germany and France for further studies to assess the impact of abolition, originally agreed in 1991 as part of harmonisation of tax levels across the 15 member states. The ministers agreed only that individual states would be able to conduct their own impact studies while the European Commission — which has been pressing for the end of duty free sales — would draw up a report on

how badly hit areas could seek EU funding to cushion the blow. A Commission spokeswoman welcomed the decision saying: "It is a reaffirmation of what was decided unanimously in 1991. A general review of the decision now would not have been useful." The meeting was chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who told reporters that abolition was a decision made by the previous Tory government. But during the meeting Britain did not challenge the view of most other member states that abolition should not be reconsidered. Pressure for abolition has come mainly from the Commission which argues that duty free is a tax anomaly benefiting only the minority of citizens who travel abroad by plane or ship. There is annoyance in

Brussels that duty free operators have had seven years to prepare for the end but have instead lobbied to be allowed to retain their markets and threatened the loss of jobs. The Duty Free Confederation, funded by port and airport operators, transport trade unions, airlines and ferry companies promised to continue the fight. They claim up to 140,000 jobs across the EU will be put at risk if the practice is abolished. A small demonstration of workers from the industry demonstrated outside the council of ministers' buildings. Charlie McCreevey, the Irish finance minister, who has been pressing for a review, said: "The decision to abolish duty free is going to lead to a loss of jobs and will be devastating to small businesses. "We will continue this battle to the very end."

## Single parents to be offered care jobs

Lucy Ward  
Political Correspondent

**J**OBLESS lone parents will be recruited to a new army of playworkers as part of a huge expansion in childcare to help thousands of working parents. The Government's national childcare strategy, unveiled yesterday, sets out plans for high quality, affordable and accessible care for children up to 14 throughout England. The package — backed by £200 million over five years for after-school clubs — met warm approval from childcare campaigners. But there were warnings that the promise of new places for up to a million children must be backed up with continuing resources to help guarantee quality. Ministers see the plan as supporting children's educa-

tion, allowing parents to balance work and family life and boosting the economy by enabling more adults to train and eventually enter work. They also want to encourage unemployed single parents to train as playworkers. According to the green paper, "parents are a key potential source of childcare and playworkers". Childcare groups estimate some 60,000 new workers will be needed to staff out-of-school clubs, which are due to expand by some 40,000 places in 1999/00. The green paper pulls together a raft of government pledges, among them plans to underpin expansion of provision by tightening up on regulation of childcare providers. The Minister for Women, Harriet Harman, launching the paper yesterday with the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, stressed the "patchy quantity

and quality" of childcare around the country. Local education authorities will be charged with assessing demand for childcare places in their areas and drawing up plans to meet needs. Mr Blunkett said the plans would also offer safety to children who would otherwise be "latchkey kids" as more families had two working parents. The childcare campaign group Daycare Trust welcomed the plans, but warned that the expansion of childcare places must not be at the expense of quality. Trust director Collette Kelleher also joined calls for funding to pump-prime new childcare provision in disadvantaged areas. The Conservatives branded the proposals "all style and no substance", and the Lib Dems called for a statutory registration scheme for childcare workers.



Michelle Treasure and her son Kayle, who started nursery school at eight months

## EU duty free sales to end

Stephen Bates in Brussels

**T**HE abolition of duty free sales at ports and airports across the European Union appears certain to go ahead from July next year after EU finance ministers reaffirmed the decision despite heavy lobbying from the industry. At a meeting in Brussels the ministers rejected calls from Ireland, Germany and France for further studies to assess the impact of abolition, originally agreed in 1991 as part of harmonisation of tax levels across the 15 member states. The ministers agreed only that individual states would be able to conduct their own impact studies while the European Commission — which has been pressing for the end of duty free sales — would draw up a report on

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# Ministerial mission to Iran planned

Ian Black  
Diplomatic Editor

**B**RTAIN is considering sending a Foreign Office minister to Iran for the first time since the 1979 revolution in an effort to improve relations against Salman Rushdie, the Guardian has learned.

If final approval is given, Derek Fatchett, the minister responsible for the Middle East, could visit Tehran before the end of Britain's European Union presidency on June 30, signalling appreciation by both London and Brussels of President Mohammad Khatami's positive new attitude to the West.

Behind the plan lies Britain's wish to encourage the moderate Shi'ite cleric in his struggle against hardline opponents. But Foreign Office sources insist any talks would have to raise concerns about Mr Rushdie, Iran's support for terrorism and its nuclear ambitions.

Derek Plumbly, the Foreign Office director for the Middle East, was due to meet a senior Iranian official in Brussels yesterday to nail down an agreed European Union-Iran agenda for enhanced political contacts.

With the outcome of Monday's EU-United States summit in London ending the threat of American sanctions against companies trading with Iran, British firms will want to see better relations.

Cultural ties between Britain and Iran have been quietly but deliberately encouraged by both governments in recent months.

But a ministerial visit would be a big leap forward for the only EU member which does not have an ambassador in Tehran and is attacked by Iranian hardliners in the same breath as the US.

British perceptions have changed dramatically since President Khatami came to power in August. Whitehall believes he is working to stop terrorism abroad by agents of Iran's ministry of intelligence services, which is controlled by factions close to the coun-

try's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

"The feeling is that the time is right to move things forward in the hope that nothing happens to set things back," one well-placed British source said. "We want to build on the favourable atmosphere generated by Khatami's election, though without any illusions that he controls everything."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has used the EU presidency to find an alternative to the Union's "critical dialogue" — suspended last year after Tehran was implicated in terrorist killings in a Berlin restaurant.

In February the EU lifted a ban on ministerial visits, although some British officials have argued that it might be preferable to send a senior diplomat rather than a minister, and only after the end of the EU presidency.

The Rushdie affair remains the most difficult part of any rapprochement. Iran's leaders have made it clear they will not send anyone to kill the writer, condemned to death because of alleged blasphemy in *The Satanic Verses*. But they insist the *fatwa* issued by the late Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, cannot be revoked.

Recent efforts have focused on cancelling the \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) reward offered by the hardline 15th Khordad Foundation for anyone who carries out the edict.

Carmel Bedford, spokesperson for the International Rushdie Defence Committee, said: "If a British minister is going to visit Iran on behalf of the EU we would be delighted. But we would expect him to fulfil the commitment to demand the withdrawal of the bounty money as a prerequisite for improved relations."

A US official said on Monday that a British ministerial visit to Iran would be premature. "The jury is still out on where this Iranian government is heading. There are many positive signals but also a lot of things that cause us much concern, especially on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. And we and the UK see the same things."

## Cook visits shot Turkish activist to highlight human rights concern

**R**OBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, last night highlighted British and European Union concerns about Turkey by visiting a leading human rights activist shot and seriously wounded last week by an unknown gunman, writes Ian Black in Ankara.

No one has been arrested for the attack on Akin Birdal, the head of Turkey's Human Rights Association. He was shot six times in the chest and leg at his office after leaks to the press linked him to separatist Kurdish guerrillas. The association denies

any connections to rebels. Mr Cook went to see Mr Birdal in hospital after a day of talks designed to persuade Turkey to attend a key meeting next week in Brussels. He said he was not disappointed by Ankara's refusal to give a firm commitment.

Mr Birdal, also deputy chairman of an international rights group, has been an outspoken critic of rights abuses in Turkey and has accused the state of conducting a "dirty war" against Kurdistan Workers' Party rebels in the south-east.



Lillian Ross with the late New Yorker editor William Shawn. In her book, *Here And Not Here*, she writes that their affair was an open secret. They even adopted a child together.

## Editor's double life shocks NY

A reporter's memoir of her 40-year affair with William Shawn has demolished his saintly image, writes Joanna Coles

**A**T FIRST GLANCE neither the dustjacket nor the title gives much away. Instead, the cover of *Here And Not Here* features a photograph of a plump, middle-aged man, staring into the middle distance. His fedora, roosting at a jaunty angle, hints perhaps at some deeper eccentricity, and the subtitle, *A Love Story*, lends another clue.

But once past the first paragraph there is no doubting the explosive contents of a book that is riveting literary New York, and which will change forever the public perception of William Shawn, the legendary editor of *The New Yorker* who died in 1992.

Indeed, it is hard to think of another editor with such a reputation among both writers and readers. A stickler for detail and manners — he once tracked down a writer in the jungle to ask if he could change a

comma — he sharpened his blue pencil at the magazine's offices in West 43rd Street for 35 years.

But his image as the bookish, almost saintly, editor whose life was dedicated to the magazine and his wife of 64 years has been shot down for good. This month, in a controversial memoir, his lover Lillian Ross blows the lid off their 40-year affair.

Though among friends the affair between the editor and one of the magazine's reporters was an open secret — they even adopted a son together — it was never alluded to either in the office or in public. Ms Ross's decision to bare her soul so dramatically has surprised many.

As yet, publicity for the book has been cautious. Random House, the publisher, has sent out a tiny number of galley-copies, which have been changing hands at a furious rate.

The book's title comes from Shawn's description to Ms Ross of his home life. "I am there but not there," she says he told her. She says he was no prig, rather he burned with an "alarming" sexual energy while managing a bizarre double life that allowed him to spend every night with his wife but to take breakfast, lunch and usually supper with his mistress.

He would also spend Christmas Eve with Ms Ross (she turned her drawing room into a replica of his family room to make him more comfortable). But he reserved Christmas Day and Thanksgiving for his wife Cecile and their children Wallace, an actor, Allen and Mary, who was born with brain damage.

"Our apartment is located about half a mile south of the one he lives in with his wife Cecile," Ms Ross explains on page three, mentioning her for the first time. "He and I had agreed we would not keep our liaison a secret from Cecile."

"When Bill told her about it they talked for weeks and then for months with each



The actor Wallace Shawn, one of William Shawn's three children with his wife of 64 years, Cecile

other, an agonising time for both of them, and then she made her unshakable decision: she would stay in the marriage and he would make the logistical arrangements with her that our life together called for."

Some writers are questioning Ms Ross's motives for writing the book while Mrs Shawn is still alive.

"It's about possession of the man," said one New Yorker contributor. "I think Mrs Shawn will be desperately upset, as will Wally. It's very upsetting for them indeed."

Another adds: "I think the question she should be asking herself is, is this what William Shawn would have wanted?"

But yesterday Ms Ross said she thought Shawn would approve, and that he had often told her he was tired of being caricatured.

"We talked about it... he liked everything I wrote," she said. Asked if she thought Mrs Shawn would be upset, she replied: "I don't think that's a factor. Her children all love her and I say very clearly in the book that Bill loved her."

She insists the book is very much her own love story. "I've been thinking about writing it for a long time; it's my life."

Dedicating the book to Shawn, she begins chapter one: "All enduring love between two people, however startling or unconven-

'It's about possession of the man. I think Mrs Shawn will be desperately upset, as will Wally. It's very upsetting for them indeed'

tional, feels unalterable, predestined, compelling, and intrinsically normal to the couple immersed in it, so I would have to say that I had an intrinsically normal life for over four decades with William Shawn, the late editor of the New Yorker. We loved each other. We remained in love with each other until the day he died, unexpectedly, on December 8, 1992.

"We signed off every phone call, every casual parting, every good night including that of the night before his death, with I love you. From the first instance of his open declaration of love, Bill Shawn continued to say it, and to make me feel his love."

# Menace behind army kingmakers

Kidnappings and torture reveal the military's sinister side, Andrew Higgins in Jakarta writes

**A**S THOUSANDS of students swarmed across Indonesia's parliament building yesterday, soldiers in green berets stood stoically in the sun and ushered new arrivals through the gates with polite nods.

But behind the trim professionalism of troops in the streets and the soft-spoken cool of General Wiranto, the country's senior commander, lurks a parallel world — menacing, opaque and possibly more powerful.

This is the world inhabited by the two unidentified men who confronted a Jakarta lawyer, Desmon Mahesa, the director of the Jakarta chapter of the National Legal Aid Institute, as he got off a minibus near the Indonesian Christian Students' Association on his way home from work in February.

They pulled a pistol, bundled him into a car and shoved a hood over his head. To muffle street noises outside that might identify their route, they turned up the volume of the car stereo.

They drove for nearly an hour and then deposited Mr Mahesa at his destination: a tiled building with six tiny rooms and a television camera in the hall. Beaten and



Protesting students crowd the steps and roof of the parliament in Jakarta yesterday. "Tomorrow we'll go to the presidential palace," said one

given electric shocks upon his arrival by men in "green uniforms" and others in batik shirts, he spent the next two months there.

It was a very different venue from the one chosen by Gen Wiranto on Monday night to present the public face of Indonesia's security forces. Under the glare of television lights he sat at a long table in the defence ministry, a card in front of him clearly

identifying his name and rank. His message of support for President Suharto was not what students wanted, but its delivery was calm, controlled and very public.

All Mr Mahesa knows about the mysterious compound where he and others say they were tortured is what he heard from a windowless room — the sound of a bugle and the shouts of a satay pedlar. "From the type

of building and the people in it, all I can say is that it was a very neat organisation," said Mr Mahesa, one of at least 15 anti-government activists kidnapped in recent months.

The military has denied involvement in the abductions, but Mr Mahesa's testimony, and that of another freed victim, Plus Lustrilang, reveal the shadowy forces that operate beyond the scrutiny of cameras, the law and possibly even commanders such as Gen Wiranto.

The gulf between the public and hidden side of Indonesia's security forces compounds attempts to decipher the manoeuvring in an organisation that embraces anonymous operatives with pistols and sophisticated officers with degrees from American military academies and first-name friendships from joint exercises

Subianto, head of the strategic reserve command.

Gen Wiranto, the older of the two, is regarded as a relative moderate. He has tried to accommodate demands for reform from the street and in campuses, while declaring his loyalty to Mr Suharto, whom he once served as adjutant.

Gen Prabowo strikes a far more macho pose. He prefers the swagger of the Kopassus Regiment, the elite corps of special forces he led until earlier this year and which he commanded with ruthless zeal against pro-independence rebels in East Timor. He speaks fluent English, having done part of his schooling in Britain, but is far more at home in the muscular vernacular of intrigue and force.

There is widespread suspicion, though no hard evidence, that Gen Prabowo may have played a role in a decision to use live ammunition against student demonstrators at Trisakti University last Tuesday — a decision that cost six lives and sparked the riots last week in which more than 500 died and thousands of buildings were wrecked. Similar allegations surrounded his conduct in East Timor, where provocation and kidnapping formed an important part of an often brutish campaign to pacify the former Portuguese colony.

Whether this is possible will depend on sowing the darker side of a security establishment that excels in infiltration and provocation.

Adnan Buyung Nasution, a prominent lawyer and government critic, fears the kidnappings show the potency of such forces. "Although they often wear civilian clothes, they do not show their face. They are always under cover. It is clear they are well organised."

East Kalimantan on Borneo. He agreed to keep quiet in return for his freedom. His captors concocted a cover story: he was to tell anyone who asked that he had been away on a research project in Irian Jaya, the easternmost and poorest part of the country.

For more than a month, he stuck to the story. But when unidentified men started making menacing visits to his family and friends, he broke cover. An investigation into the abductions and assured the safety of anyone providing evidence.

Mr Lustrilang, another freed kidnap victim, had fled to the Netherlands and then to the United States, where he testified to the US Senate.

"I am afraid but the head of the army has offered to guarantee my safety," Mr Mahesa said. "If this is true or not we will see. I hope this guarantee is not just a bluff. Whether I die will be the proof."

The mass protests scheduled for today put the armed forces to the same test on a dangerously grand scale. Gen Wiranto has urged that the rallies be called off, but has promised to let them go ahead so long as they remain orderly.

Leader comment, page 8



Gen Wiranto, the army's senior commander (above), and his more hardline rival for power, Gen Prabowo



PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLES DHARAPAK

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# Comment

## Diary

Matthew Norman

**A**RAY of sunshine lights up the face of my colleague Emily Barr... after a long leave of absence, Terry Major-Ball is back. Terry calls to report that he has recently been to Alaska. "Would you believe me if I said I'd been training huskies?" he asks. No, says Emily. "In that case, darling, I'll tell the truth. I was on a cruise writing about it for the Express. I went with a very nice young PR lady called Lisa." Speaking of young ladies, Emily replies, what do you make of your nephew's engagement? "Ah yes, James and Emma Noble. I'm very happy for them both. People say: 'But she's been a topless model.' But I say that doesn't mean she's not a nice person. I'm sure she's a very nice young lady. I was at a game competition the other day and suddenly this mob of journalists burst in wanting to ask about James and Emma. And I said: 'You can't just come in like that! I'm busy, you can wait outside.' And would you believe it, they did!" And upon this mannerly note, Terry makes his farewells.

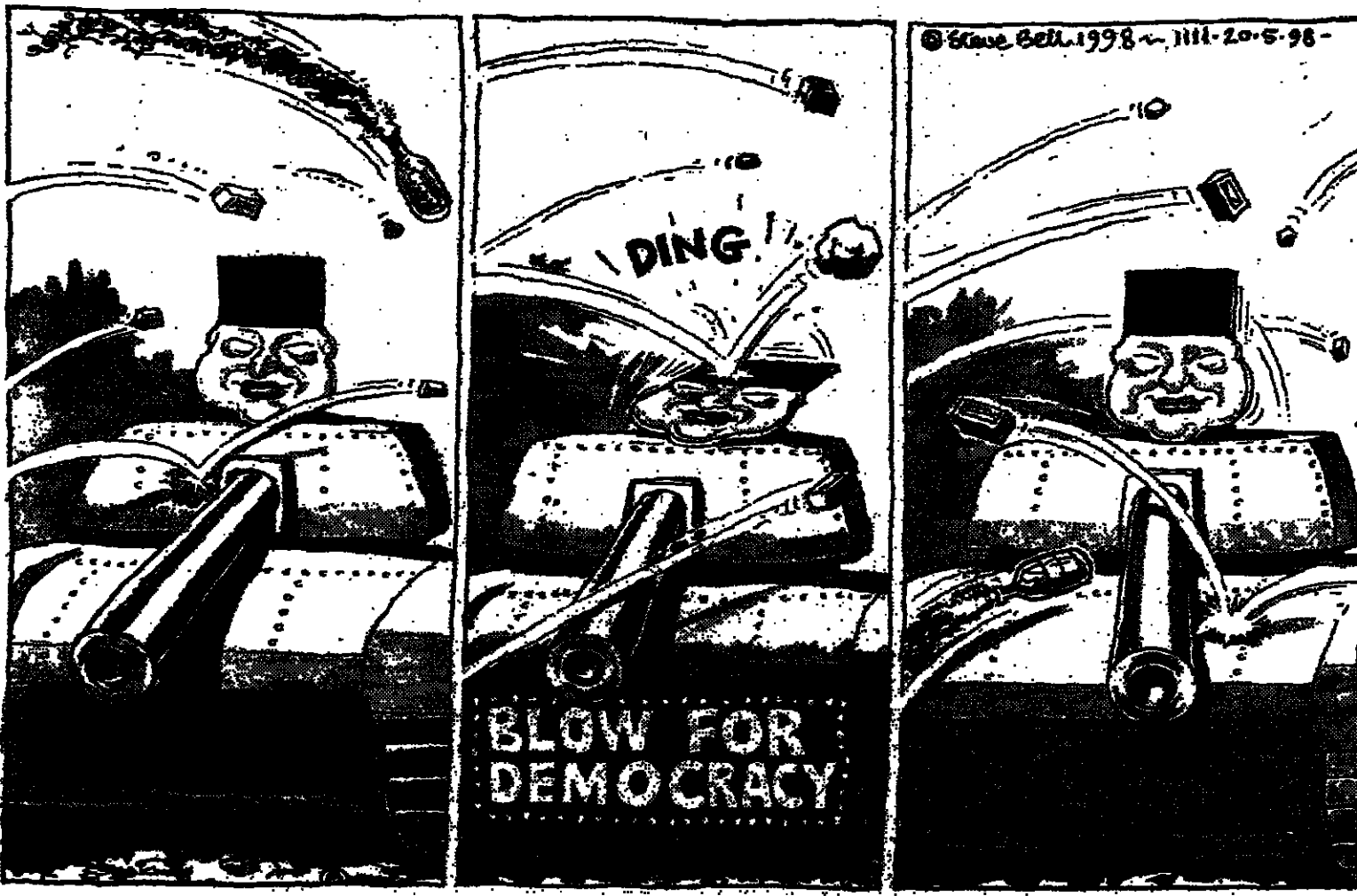
**D**OWNING Street, alas, is less polite when we make the morning call. After being put on hold for ages, we are connected to a brusque young press officer. "Can I help?" he asks. We would like, today, we explain, to put a positive spin on Harriet Harman, and wonder how this might best be done. "I think you have complete indifference to the Guardian Diary," he says. But surely you at Number 10... click, brrrrrr; this insolent pup has hung up on us, mid-sentence! If this impertinence is repeated, we will be obliged to resort to more native methods to clear the Diary back on-message. What those methods shall be I know not, but they shall be the terrors of the earth.

**T**HIS lad's alleged indifference notwithstanding, it comes to my attention that young people have been reading the Diary. This must stop. This column is not intended for anyone under 25 (would be readers younger than that must have a note signed by parents or legal guardians; and yes, Oofy Woggy Presser, that does include you). In keeping with our latest focus group research, the Diary is, in fact, targeted at the 50-103 age range... and to this end, I am pleased to announce a special, one-off promotion. The first dozen nonagenarians to write in, enclosing proof of age, will be sent a bottle of champagne. Holders of telegrams from Her Majesty receive a mugshot.

**A**WARM hats off to three victorians in the recent council elections. Commenting on the dismal 30 per cent turnout, the Lewisham Mercury reports that Liberal Democrat Cllr Eileen O'Sullivan was a fine example for forgetting to vote for himself. At the same time, two highly promising New Labour careers were born. Asked to express their feelings on being elected to public office for the first time, both Kathryn Donnelly and Jane Hastie replied: "No comment." An excellent start. Westminster awaits.

**M**YSTERY continues to cloak the case of Alan Shearer. Last week, the FA cleared the England captain of deliberately kicking a Leicester player in the head, despite the most blatant TV evidence. The FA "special commission", which met in secret, explained that a previously (and since) unseen camera angle persuaded them it was "an accident". We ring FA spokesman Steve Double for a briefing. "The Commission made their decision on the Sky footage," says Steve. "Talk to Sky." Sky press office fails to return the call, but we are very keen to view the secret footage, and will keep at it until it does.

**D**EA Birkett rings to draw attention to her Lonely Planet calendar, which lauds the virtues of a different country each month. The nation selected for May, she tells us, is Indonesia; and the picture for next Sunday, May 24, features two smiling people, with the caption: "Friendly locals, Jakarta."



## People in Northern Ireland will have no one to blame but themselves

Jonathan Freedland



**N**OW here's a funny thing. Three politicians — two of them grey men in debate with a roomful of fresh-faced teenagers. One side is mired in the past, hung up on old battles. The other is looking to the future, ready to take a risk for a better life. One side is stubbornly saying No. The other desperately wants to say Yes.

And which side is which? Surely it's the sixth formers at Ballyclare High School who are trying to change the world, urging their parents to vote Yes in Friday's referendum on the Northern Ireland agreement? Surely it's David Trimble and his Unionists, the men who have made a religion of saying No, who are against them? Right? Wrong. It's the other way around. At Ballyclare High it's the kids who voted No in their school poll, by 268 votes to 135, and the pro-union politicians — including the Tories' Viscount Cranborne and Labour's Kate Hoey — who are trying to change the world. The old are preaching to the young about the future; the young are telling the old not to forget the past.

And that's not the only reversal. Received wisdom used to hold that the "ordinary people" of Northern Ireland wanted peace: it was their leaders who kept them at war. This week the cliché no longer fits. Polls show that, while Trimble and his party are urging a Yes vote, the Unionist public is heading toward a collective thumbs-down.

You can blame the leaders for that if you want. The Yes campaign has been pitiful. It is made up of such bizarre al-

lies — Gerry Adams and Trimble, John Hume and the loyalist ex-paramilitaries, Bill Clinton and William Hague — they can't possibly work together. Each party is supposed to be doing its own thing, but little is happening. Few rallies, no door-to-door canvassing. "There's an exhaustion factor," confesses Trimble. While his side were in all-night talks at Stormont, his Unionist rivals in the No camp — led by Ian Paisley — had six months to organise. Their banners are everywhere; the energy is with them.

You can blame Trimble personally, too. His lack of charisma is costing the Yes cause: Paisley and the one-man-band UK Unionist, Robert McCartney, are out-talking him. Trimble has managed to take what should have been the most positive message possible — Yes — and present it as depressingly negative and contradictory.

He could be out and about boasting of a historic peace with nationalism, one that means old enemies to be seen with or to speak with Sinn Féin, insisting they are insincere and that their support for the deal is purely tactical — so undermining the accord and his achievement in getting it. Far from selling the deal as a great prize that must be endorsed on Friday, he suggests it will change little and that Unionists can abandon it whenever they like. His main argument

in Ballyclare for a Yes vote was: "Sinn Féin want you to vote No." Nothing would please Adams more, he said, than to be able to blame "stupid Unionism" when the whole thing fails.

With a message like that, it's no wonder the Yes campaign has not caught fire. There have been other problems. The heroes' welcome granted to the convicted killers of the Balcombe Street gang at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis chilled Unionists. And overwhelming nationalist support for the deal has not reassured waverers. "When they're that happy, you have to worry," says Julie Blumming, an undecided voter on the Cregagh Road.

**S**o you can blame the Balcombe Street gang, Sinn Féin, Trimble or Paisley — or all of them — for the Unionists' apparent march toward No. Or you can point the finger where most don't like it pointed: at the people themselves.

"They're being intellectually challenged, and they don't like it," says David Ervine, a former loyalist paramilitary who led the Progressive Unionist Party at the Stormont talks. He is frustrated. He knows this is a good deal for Unionists, one which preserves the link to Britain and could bring normality to Ulster. And yet his neighbours are rejecting it.

They'll only be happy, Ervine says, with a deal that hands them everything they want right now and asks them to give up nothing. Unionists delude themselves into thinking that, if they say No, Sinn Féin and the others will return with better terms

rather than walk away from the peace process. He almost chokes when he hears No campaigners complain about prisoner releases or the agreement's lack of firm guarantees on decommissioning — as if somehow a No vote will keep the hand gun in jail forever and persuade the IRA to give up all its weapons. Unionist voters seem to have kidded themselves into believing that voting No will reject this peace plan but replace it with a much better one. "There is nothing else," says Ervine. You would think they would be desperate to change the status quo, but some seem quite happy with it. "The truth is," says one veteran Unionist hard man, "they haven't suffered enough."

A man calls into Talkback, the BBC Radio Ulster phone-in, and suggests rejectionist politicians have built careers out of the Troubles and can't face giving them up. The conflict is familiar, comfortable, while the future is uncertain.

Many voters are the same, sticking with what they know. Even Trimble admits his community suffers a terrible lack of confidence, that the notion of forging its own future — no longer ruled directly from London — is scary. The result, he says, is the current "flight from responsibility". For years, Ulster has been the land of permanent opposition, where you could always blame the other side or London or Dublin for what went wrong. On Friday, that era comes to an end. Northern Ireland is finally allowed to decide for itself. But it's not easy, not when you've spent a long, painful lifetime saying No.

## Never mind the ballots

Polly Toynbee



**A** WARNING shot has been lobbed at the whole welfare to work programme. This week a Rowntree Foundation study examined the long-term fate of 850 unemployed people, with depressing results. Three-quarters of them took part-time or temporary jobs in the much-vaunted "flexible" labour market that is supposed to be the easy route back to work. Three years later most of them were still moving in and out of precarious and part-time jobs that offered little improvement to their lot. Fewer than a quarter had reached a safe haven in full-time permanent jobs. The New Deal will have to show it can do considerably better than that.

This study is a snapshot of Tory employment policy. Many of the problems it identifies are ones Labour is trying to solve. Nonetheless, it is a dire warning of what the "flexible" labour market does to keep millions of people poor.

So far, we have a Government facing both ways. Sometimes it talks powerfully of the need to improve working opportunities. But then Tony Blair lectures the Europeans on the virtues of British labour "flexibility" versus European old-fashioned "rigidity". One employer's flexibility is often his employee's dead-end job.

Tomorrow the Government publishes its Fairness at Work white paper. All the political controversy has centred on ballots for trade union recognition. But, taking the package as a whole, will there be enough measures to protect people from the rampant "flexibility" imposed on the workforce in recent years? Will it end the mentality that brought us the zero-hours contract, where workers are constantly on call but are paid only for the random hours for which they may be needed?

Tomorrow we shall see how the Government views such flexible Victorian practices. The Employment Policy Institute recently published a close analysis of one year in the labour market which showed a rapid turnover in jobs — flexibility with a vengeance for the unskilled falling in and out of temporary work. Not many ever move up into permanence. For all the Tory boasting about the new growth in jobs, only one in five have been permanent full-time posts. It's a pattern the New Deal for the young and long-term unemployed will have to break. There is only small gain in spending £3.5 billion in pushing more people through the same revolving doors, in and out of marginal work for the rest of their lives.

Some of the most important levers for change rest in the Government's hands. For example, there is a strong incentive for employers to create more part-time jobs, for which they pay lower National Insurance contributions. There should at least be a level playing field, with employers paying exactly the same national insurance, pro rata, for full and part-time employees.

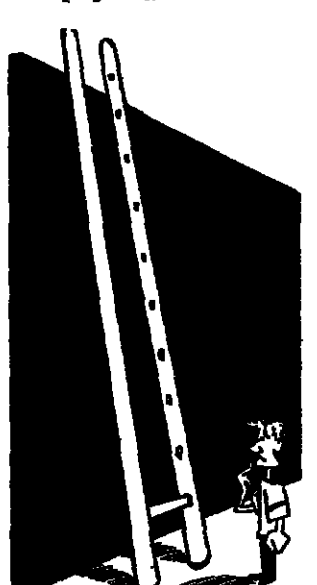
**T**HREE studies tell us how things were under the Tories. It will take perhaps four or five years before we get any reliable figures to show whether the New Deal has made a lasting difference. Claim and counter-claim will be made on the crude figures showing how many have been bundled into first jobs. But those running the programme worry about how to stop the politicians on both sides making cheap political capital out of figures that will tell us very little for a long while yet. So don't rely on some New Deal results out on tomorrow.

Labour is cautiously laying the foundation stones for a better employment market. The work more worthwhile for millions. So with the higher income benefits. The childcare

strategy, published yesterday, will transform the opportunities for women. Part-timers will now get the same legal rights as full-timers. Signing up for the social chapter, the new 48-hour working week will benefit many, guaranteeing a three-week holiday and one day a week off. Despite its many exemptions, its symbolic value marks disapproval of gross over-working. Not bad for just one year.

But not enough. Last week's McKinsey report showed that low productivity we achieve compared with our competitors. If only we could boast that we had a better quality of life to show for it. But we work the longest hours in Europe. For 100 years working hours were repeatedly cut, until 1973. We would now have an average 35-hour working week if progress had continued at the same rate. One study shows that, if we did work a 35-hour week, we would be employing about a million more people full time. So the idea that all this flexibility has created thousands more jobs is only one way of looking at it.

**L**ABOUR says it wants to break with the past and do away with what one minister calls "Arthur Daley" working practices, where one company undercuts the rest by exploiting its workforce, dragging other companies down. Yet, speaking with its other voice, ministers praise the value of low-cost easy-entry jobs for getting the unemployed back to work. Which do they mean? These two views strongly suggest that getting people into bad jobs does not help much in the long run. Will similar studies in five years time show less flexibility in the labour market and more lasting ladders out of unemployment?



One foot on the jobs ladder will not be enough. Too many will fall back

The rhetoric from the Treasury is that the future lies in a better trained, more highly skilled workforce producing high quality goods. How do we get there? The training element in the New Deal is the best in any scheme yet and should lift people's life chances. But most people churned through the low pay/bed-job/no-job cycle are not a part of the New Deal. What of them?

There was the noble intention of the University for Industry, designed to offer lifelong learning and training for those with no skills. So far, employment experts say, it's proved a damp squib. What is needed is a real push with a lot of money to offer attractive, well-publicised free courses in every area. The Rowntree researchers suggest the programme should be kick-started by making employers offer everyone five training days a year to attend summer school or taster courses, so those least likely to use them at least get to see what is available.

The implied promise and the true intention of welfare to work is to lift people permanently out of a marginal insecure life. But this research suggests that one foot on the ladder won't be enough. Too many will keep falling back down. To make it work, the Government now needs to create a second step upwards.

Bill Gates's worldly wealth has given him the means to move into space, launching 288 satellites

## Blast-off

Bill O'Neill

**M**ICROSOFT dominates the world of the personal computer and, whatever the result of current action by the US Justice Department, looks set to determine the future of the Internet, too.

For Bill Gates, the company's boss, has already made plans to soar beyond terrestrial jurisdictions with one of the most astonishing technological ambitions of the age: a scheme to put 288 satellites in orbit around the earth and so provide an alternative network to link computers. This "Internet-in-the-sky" would be capable of providing anyone, regardless of their location on the planet, with access to telecommunications infrastructure equivalent to that of a modern city.

The first satellite is due to be launched, appropriately enough, in 2001, and

the last one by the end of the following year — an unprecedented burst in the earth's population of orbiting objects. Most of the 4,000 or so satellites launched since Sputnik 1 first went into orbit on October 4 1957 are now defunct.

Teledestic, as the scheme is known because of the way its array of satellites follows the shape of the earth, would be much more than a global telephone system, such as the Iridium array of 66 satellites, which is due to come into operation in September.

As the Teledestic satellites fall past the earth, retained by gravity in polar orbits just 435 miles above the surface, clever choreography will ensure that they provide every location with a constant shadow from within which telecommunications could be transmitted and received. As one satellite starts to disappear over the northern horizon, a following one in the same

orbit will come up from the south; or, as the earth rotates about its own axis, another satellite in an adjacent orbit will take over.

The entire array, which is designed to be tied into terrestrial networks where these are available, will orbit in what are known as low-earth orbits. Traditionally, communications satellites have been positioned 22,500 miles above the earth's surface, where their orbits are synchronised with the earth's rotation and their shadow remains over one particular spot, albeit a large one. The downside of this arrangement of so-called geostationary orbits is the delay in sending signals over such long distances and the need for huge power packs to support the system.

Craig McCaw, the young millionaire who developed Teledestic after selling his mobile phone business to AT & T in 1994, described it as an alternative "Internet-in-the-sky". The original dream was to install 840 satellites in the array at a total project cost close to \$6 billion. When this ambitious target, which would have provided huge capacity from the outset of the project, was revised, many analysts began talk-

ing of Teledestic as little more than the whim of men with more money than sense. That was, at least, until last month when a renowned entrepreneur from Saudi Arabia, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, spent \$120 million buying a 16 per cent stake in the scheme. Alwaleed has earned his reputation from investing in struggling companies that have subsequently seen their stars rise. Most notable among them is Citicorp bank, in which his investment of around \$360 million in 1991 is now reckoned to be worth \$4.2 billion.

McCaw's technological vision is what attracted Bill Gates to become an equal partner in the project in 1996; the pair own a third of the equity apiece. Bill Gates's personal wealth is said to increase by \$1.3 million an hour. So, if the terrestrial world won't let Gates play in its game, then he has more than enough money to make his own.

You'll be able to phone or modem from any place on earth

pass data traffic backwards and forwards from one side of the globe to the other. If one satellite develops a fault, a neighbouring one will be capable of compensating for the loss.

The need for impressive celestial choreography, which takes cellular communications to a new level of sophistication, is the downside of placing the sat-

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## Last gasp of a despot

He still needs a shove

PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S grudging willingness to step down may have come much too late to save Indonesia from further turmoil. A decision taken so tardily and reluctantly under exceptional pressure is likely to require much more sustained effort before it is fulfilled. The opposition will suspect that the plan he announced yesterday for a political transition may allow him not only to rig the new electoral law and the parliamentary contest which is to follow, but to ensure a successor to his liking. Here is a man who only three months ago insisted on being chosen for a seventh term when his country was already plunged into a crisis for which he and his vengeful family are largely responsible. His first action after being "re-elected" by a bogus process was to appoint a cabinet filled with cronies. Who can be so sure he will go quietly now?

The foreign powers who turned a blind eye for so long to this undemocratic and corrupt regime are now shifting their feet uneasily. It is absurd to argue that expressing a view on Suharto's future is unacceptable interference in Indonesia's internal affairs. The West has intervened in Indonesia ever since it condoned the appalling massacres 30 years ago which assisted Suharto's rise to power. Besides, there is more than one way in which to convey the message. The right time to withdraw support from Suharto would have been before the March election, when he had already shown himself more interested in protect-

ing his family's interests than in tackling the economic chaos. As the Guardian argued at the time, neither Indonesia nor Asia could afford more Suhartism. What was needed was some sharp advice delivered down the telephone line from Washington before his country unravelled altogether. It is a tragic pity that no such message was delivered. Even now, very late in the day, a clear message is needed from outside that Suharto must speed up his exit. At the lowest common denominator of diplomatic self-interest, this may somewhat redeem Western credibility with a more radical regime emerging in Jakarta. The folly of supporting the Shah to the bitter end should be a historical object lesson: so far it does not appear to have been learnt.

Let us pass over the ludicrous statement yesterday from Australian Prime Minister John Howard congratulating Suharto on "the wisdom that he has shown". (Successful Australian governments have whitewashed the Jakarta regime even when their own nationals were its victims.) More relevant was the US administration's unwillingness, before Suharto's announcement, to respond to appeals from Congress to call directly for him to step down. The main argument against doing so is a fear of the unknown. As one official told a Senate subcommittee on Monday, the US might "get something we don't want." Last week there was even some feeble talk about a "middle ground" which would allow Suharto to stay as titular leader. Here there are shades of Iraq, where the question of who might succeed Saddam Hussein has more than once subtly inhibited US policy.

The answer to the uncertainty argument is that revolutions are uncertain affairs. But as a general rule, attempts to frustrate or manipulate them are likely to produce worse outcomes. The dilemma for the Indo-

nesian opposition, whether secular or Muslim, is how to separate the armed forces from Suhartism: it is for them to debate whether compromise or confrontation is the best tactic at any given time. The outside world (including the international monetary institutions) can best help by delivering an unequivocal verdict on this sorry regime: Suharto should go sooner rather than later.

## A kids' charter

Thanks to the new MPs

AN ERA ends. For decades politicians have been talking about family values but failed to pursue policies which supported families. Yesterday's consultation paper on a national childcare strategy opens a new age. Children and childcare are no longer a marginal issue. Ministers have engaged on a daunting task. Childcare is the real Cinderella in Britain's welfare state: much of it unregulated, most of it provided by untrained people, and in many areas completely unavailable. Publicly funded daycare is provided for a mere 2 per cent of children under three compared to 20 per cent in France and 48 per cent in Denmark. There is only one registered childcare place (childminders, nurseries and out of school clubs) for every nine children under eight. There are 800,000 latchkey children under 12 who go home to an empty house after school. Cuts to social services by the last government have meant even fewer daycare places than four years ago.

What has changed the political climate? The rise of the woman MP. There are 121 women in Parliament, most of whom have direct experience of the difficulties of juggling jobs and family responsibilities.

There are 101 in Tony Blair's Labour Party. Hence his two-page foreword in yesterday's document signalling a personal commitment to a coherent strategy. Women should be celebrating. Forget the fibres from the far right. Labour is not telling people how to live but rather is looking at how they live and examining what can be done to support them. Ministers are not telling women to go out to work: they have been doing that in droves for the last two decades. Two thirds of all women now go back to work after maternity leave — a 50 per cent increase in the last decade alone. Long before this new initiative, official projections suggested women would account for 1.1 million of the expected 1.5 million rise in jobs by 2006.

Now Labour has committed itself on three fronts: better quality through more systematic regulation and training; wider access with 40,000 extra places this year with more to come; and easier affordability through generous tax credits for working families and special grants for adult students at FE colleges. A big expansion in after school clubs will give poor children new opportunities to develop their music, arts and sporting interests as well as providing quiet places for homework. Of course there are caveats: too little for the three-and-under age group, too much reliance on the lottery, the modest first year programme. But yesterday's package belatedly puts family policy firmly on the social policy agenda.

## All dolled up

It's a matter of taste

THERE MUST BE some mistake, said the nice people at the Franklin Mint yesterday. The lawsuit launched by the Diana, Prin-

cess of Wales Memorial Fund to stop their mail order firm selling Diana dolls was uncivilised: the Mint would never do anything to "dishonour Diana's memory." And they have had pledged to donate at least a million pounds to charities which the Princess supported.

The original £118 porcelain doll, "painted by hand to capture the radiant blue eyes and shy smile that touched us all," was already being advertised before the fund registered the Princess's face and name as trademarks. The case is now expected to take up to two years in the District Court of Central California, during which time many more dolls will be sold, plus wardrobes changes including the "casual outfit" worn when the Princess visited Angola "on her historic peace-keeping mission."

There is indeed an element of ambiguity in the fund's objection to the Princess Doll as reported so far. Is it taking legal action because the Franklin Mint has failed to secure a proper licence, or because the product — a crafted in "poseable lifelike vinyl" — is so horribly naïf? It appears that the company did approach the fund last year seeking a licence. It is said to have backed off because it was unhappy with the terms. It is not so clear whether the fund would have been unhappy to license the doll on aesthetic grounds if the negotiations had continued.

One fund trustee, Vivienne Parry, has already attacked the project as "undignified." A collectors' doll, she says, should be something that is special "whose clothes don't come on and off." That seems to imply that the fund would be happy to license a lifelike vinyl Diana as long as its "fashion ensemble" could not be removed. We can be sure of one thing: the Princess herself, who enjoyed frequent changes of clothing, would have enjoyed the row immensely.

## Letters to the Editor

### From sangria to Sodom

WHAT is the difference between a bowl of sangria and a bowl of fat (is it art or is it a week boxing on the Costa del Sol, May 19)? Or indeed a pile of tyres/bricks/milk crates — all have been hailed as great works of art. The Leeds arts students should be congratulated for showing us the "fine art" world for what it is — a bunch of hypocritical and self-important old (and young) farts. Les Brooksbank, Bradford, W Yorks.

NOT spending £1,000 on not going on holiday to Spain comes pretty low down the list of bizarre things that people do or don't spend money on. However, the spectacle it has created is very, very funny. Peter Nicklin, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

RE David McKie's column on town named after vices (As if there were no Gomorrah, May 18): there is a place called Sodom on Landerdragger 116 at approximately E1 9B716. It is marked on the A Big Road Atlas of Britain 1977 on page 46, north east of Boffari on the A541 Mold-Denbigh road. Dennis Roberts, Denbigh, Clwyd.

IN the North Dorset village of Marnhill, for reasons which no one has yet got to the bottom of, is a road called Sodom Lane. Richard Kelghley, Shillington, Dorset.

THEN there was the Rolls seen at Woolacombe Bay Hotel, North Devon, registration number: MONIE. The owner was very apparent in the restaurant. Michael Golby, Exeter, Devon.

## Oxbridge is opening up

MY DAUGHTER is currently deep in university prospectuses in preparation for applications next term. I very much doubt whether she will choose either Oxford or Cambridge, despite the fact that her parents both loved their time at both universities.

The reason has less to do with innate ability or the sense of intimidation implied by Linda Grant's interviewee (A world of privilege apart, May 18) than with the observation that to do so would be inherently risky. She has watched too many friends, predicted the highest of A-level grades, fail to get any offers at all if their application to Oxford or Cambridge was unsuccessful, while those with lesser predictions, but neither ancient university among their choices, received a full quiver of offers to read the same subjects at the same institutions.

There is definite circumstantial evidence that other universities, faced with over-subscription, have rejected the worst, and sufficed to be the best. The candidates from state schools who also apply to Oxbridge. Caroline Spencer, Canterbury, Kent.

I WILL write at once to my old Oxbridge college, Wadham, demanding to know why it is not striving to attract more applicants from north London who live in eight-bedroom Edwardian houses and have uncles who are RSC playwrights. Clearly there is something amiss when, instead, it attracts students like me, a milkman's daughter from Belfast. Jill Brown, London.

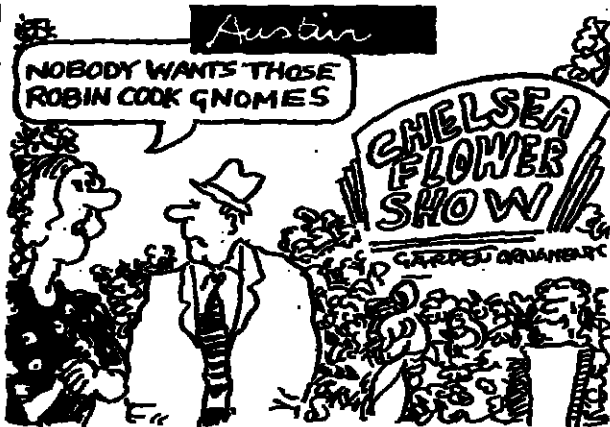
I WISH Linda Grant had come and had a cup of tea in my North London garden before writing her article. She could have met my daughter — 18, taking A-levels, thoroughly state-educated at excellent local primary and comprehensive and — yes, with a conditional place at Oxford (Wadham, in fact). She went to an Open Day at Wadham, found it welcoming, unstuffy and hugely stimulating — and there were plenty of state school students there. She was carefully selected (five interviewers) on her own merits. Ann Hunt, London.

GRADUATED from Queens' College, Cambridge, last year. Thirty six per cent of

Cambridge students are from independent schools and 48 per cent from maintained schools. Still, there are disproportionately few applications from the state sector compared to the number of 3 As students. Is it an image problem? Yes. I went home for a higher education open day as part of the University Target Schools campaign and was shocked at the number of state school students I met who had been intimidated not to apply by their schools. Richard Hadden, Brussels.

THE success of Merton College shows just how much talent from state schools Oxbridge has missed out on over the years. This injustice has been perpetuated by many employers — like the Guardian — with its "large numbers of Oxbridge graduates" — who often seem to select staff from the ancient universities, partly as an easy way of dealing with masses of job applications and partly because of their own Oxbridge connections.

The world is probably a poorer place as a result of all this under-employment. Colin Shearman, London.



## Granny doesn't live here any more

DO WE really think that more of us living into our 80s and 90s is a crisis (Polly Toynbee, May 18)? The increase in life expectancy since 1900 has gone hand-in-hand with increasing national wealth and productivity, which also has generated enormous improvements in working conditions, state education, health, etc.

Long-term care is not a "can't live with it" problem. The question is, should it be a social responsibility, via income tax, like health and education?

We all have the right to save from our taxed income and to decide what to do with our assets. Does Polly Toynbee, or will the Royal Commission, presume that it's fair that one in six elderly people needing long-term care must use their savings to pay for it?

Joe Harris, National Pensioners' Convention, London.

PAYING for residential care is nothing new. What happened under the Tory government was that the NHS stopped providing long-term nursing care for elderly people, forcing those in need to pay according to their

means for a service they were always led to believe was free from the cradle to the grave. Sonia Webb, Swansea.

IT SEEMS to me pure common-sense that the capital, including property, which people have accumulated during their lifetime should be used by them to secure the maximum comfort possible in their old age.

If a child were to be mentally or physically handicapped then one would wish to make as much provision for them as possible, but to accept basic local authority accommodation and forgo something more expensively comfortable in order to pass on a house to those who do not actually need one seems absurd.

Sorry kids! If the worst comes to the worst we're cashing everything in for the most comfortable nursing home we can afford. D J Richards, Evesham, Worcestershire.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied, please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. The Country Diary is on Page 10

## In Ulster it's time to start forgiving and stop forgetting

SIR KENNETH Bloomfield's report co-ordinating financial and emotional compensation for the relatives of loved ones killed during the conflict in the north of Ireland is a step in the direction of peace and reconciliation (Trimbale and Hume united to save Yes campaign, May 19).

But there is one group of victims/relatives who are seldom recognised — those innocent men, women and children killed by the security forces: the British Army, RUC and UDR/RRR.

When was the last time we saw the family of 12-year-old Michael O'Hare, shot twice in the back by a soldier while walking near his home in Ballymore, interviewed by the media? When was the last time we read about 12-year-old Carol Ann Kelly, shot dead by a plastic bullet whilst returning from a shop with a carton of milk?

To secure a true and lasting peace, all the victims of the past 30 years must be remem-

bered and the pain and sorrow of all the families must be recognised. Bob Hawkes, (Former British soldier) Gateshead.

THE people of Northern Ireland, particularly the Unionist elements pressing for a "No" vote in the referendum, should give serious thought to the effect of such a result on the mainland UK population. The people of Ulster know better than most what it feels like to be forgotten, but I'm beginning to know what it feels like too. Fifty million of us sit in hopeful silence, watching the ticking, and pay for it. Shows of triumphalism by either side have not been helpful, but if I see people dancing in the streets because of a "no" vote, I and many others will start asking: "Where's my referendum?" When will I be able to cast my verdict on such "loyalism"? D E Owens, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.

## Comrades in arms

### Mark Steel



BIG foreign events will always give away how parochial someone is. I'm certain there are some people who've been watching the riots in Indonesia and said: "Ooh look, it's sunny there as well." This attitude is encouraged by the press, especially the local variety. Which is why you get headlines like "Earthquake in Peru forces Yeovil man to cancel hitch-hiking trip".

The national press does cover the events, but usually not until the Foreign Office tells the British to get out. Or, in the case of yesterday's Daily Express, when "Granny ignores chaos for a little light shopping" in Jakarta. Although, being English, she was probably stood in the middle of a burning Sainsbury's, surrounded by looters and saying "Ah, that's a good offer — buy two yoghurts and get one free."

Maybe the press is right, and no one is interested unless there's British involved. But in that case, they're missing out because hundreds of British are involved. To start with, there's the British companies which made the Alvis vehicles and tactical water cannons which Suharto's army has used against the demonstrators.

When ethical Robin Cook was asked about selling these to Suharto he replied that they were not to be used for inter-

nal oppression. Which meant there were three possibilities. Firstly, that they were to be used as a novel tactic against a foreign airforce, surprising pilots as their wing commanders yelled "Watch out, sir, jet of water at 2 o'clock." Secondly, that they were bought up by Jakarta's leading garden centre, and advertised as "the perfect way to water the lawn for the man in a hurry." Or, thirdly, that he was lying, and demonstrators were due to be ethically cleansed.

Then there's the rapid-fire machine guns made by a subsidiary of British Aerospace and secretly approved by Cook. And the British arms manufacturer, Procurement Services International, whose 2700 million business with Suharto was guaranteed by Blair when he told them: "The type of equipment the Conservatives have given export licences to will present no difficulty for the Labour government."

And there's the deal signed by Thames Water to run the monopoly water company in partnership with Suharto's son. Maybe Thames had a bit of inside knowledge, and told him: "Here, you want to get into water, mate. These new cannons your Dad's buying, they get through tons of the stuff, you'll be rolling in it." And the Suharto defender at the Foreign Office, Carol Robson, who has described the military's attacks on demonstrators as "squid-like discipline". Marching out of step can be put down to squid-like discipline. So can getting drunk and causing havoc in a nightclub. But not even squids wake up on a stranger's settee after a wild night and think: "Oh I never, did I? I didn't organise an air raid on a village in East Timor again, did I? Oh my head, I need a Neurobion."

Friendly relations have been justified by reference to the way the country is

"reforming". They're trying not to kill so many people, so not giving them tanks would only upset them.

The story that would teach kids about how England deals with tyrants is that, one day, St George announced: "I've had meaningful and frank discussions with the dragon, and he has assured me that he hopes to hold free elections by the year 2010. In the meantime there is evidence that the number of maidens he's eating is being reduced year by year, so to encourage these reforms we are selling him 22 billion worth of fire, which incidentally will secure 170 jobs at GEC."

Now the IMF and Western leaders are keen for Suharto to depart. But is this because they've all thought: "You know, now I come to think about it, there's something about that bloke I don't like." Or might it be because they want Indonesia to continue providing high profits, low

wages and a market for water cannons, but with the stability that Suharto can't deliver? High profits, for example, are not compatible with mass looting. Especially if the looters raise the stakes and demand points on their loyalty card for looting the same supermarket three times in a week.

The problem for whoever takes over the country is that once people sense their own power, they don't relinquish it easily. The participants in today's demonstration, if they succeed in toppling a tyrant of 30 years, won't just think: "Ah, that's better, nice to be starving under someone different for a change."

Nonetheless a major leader, tooled up with British weapons, will have been overthrown by a group of unarmed students just before he's due to die. Isn't that just typical of students? To wait 30 years before starting a project, and then do it all at once at the last minute.

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Home town tune... Blue Lu at the New Orleans Jazz Festival in 1989

## Blue Lu Barker

## Stand by your man

EFT to her own devices, Blue Lu Barker, the blues singer who has died aged 84, might have stayed away from the limelight. But in 1930 she married jazz guitarist Danny Barker in New Orleans and the die was cast. He was four years older and already well established; he also had musical connections in New Orleans and New York, thanks to his extended family, the Barbarans.

Btu Lu Barker was born Louise Dupont. She was a Creole, the daughter of a bootlegger, and encouraged by her mother, she began singing at parties and appeared as a dancer with the Merry Makers entertainment group. She met Barker when she was 13 and they married three years later.

In 1930, he moved to New York; she soon followed. She only sang at home until her husband activated his contacts at Decca Records, when she embarked on a series of small group sessions, backed by the Danny Barker Fly

Cats. Aside from the salty nature of the repertoire, these reveal what Hughes Panassie called "a drawing, cynical accent and great humour".

Asked for her "professional" name, she turned to the drummer, Cozy Cole, who suggested something "short and snappy". "How about Lu Blue?" she said. The sobriquet was reversed after her first session. She remained Blue Lu to the end.

The success of her 1938 and 1939 Decca sessions, led Blue Lu to appear around New York with her husband, her sweet, girlish voice somehow at odds with the often risqué lyrics. Indeed, this juxtaposition of apparent innocence and bluesy bawdiness remained her trademark.

Barker wrote *Don't You Make Me High* — re-recorded on Apollo in 1946 as *Don't You Feed My Leg, Feed My Thigh* — for his wife in 1938. Its success brought her extended engagements and tours to the South. A 1970s revival of the

song by Maria Muldaur earned the Barkers a gold record.

Blue Lu continued to record with Apollo and later, when in California, on the respected Capitol label. But when the Barkers returned to New York in 1950, she virtually retired. Fifteen years later, discouraged by the dearth of jobs for swing musicians, they moved back to New Orleans, where, much honoured and always popular, they continued their partnership until Danny's death in 1994.

Blue Lu's musical philosophy was straightforward: "Music is music to me as long as I can shake my hips and tap my feet." She is survived by her daughter, Sylvia, a grandchild and several great-grandchildren.

Peter Vacher

Louise 'Blue Lu' Barker, blues singer, born November 13, 1913; died May 7, 1998



Tight rein... Iremonger walks out with his pet Belgian hare

## Tom Iremonger

## Upper crust in Essex

TOM Iremonger, who has died aged 82, was one of those outspoken parliamentary individualists who made life hell for the whips — servants and not masters of private members," he called them and heaven for lobby journalists. It was his proud boast that "I have never voted against my 'conscientious judgment'".

For a cousin of Sir Anthony Eden and a product of King's College, Canterbury, and Oriel College, Oxford, he could use a tabloid-vivid style, describing Labour militants as "red Nazis" and the difference between the red Nazis and Hitler's Nazis is that the latter were not the agents of an enemy country against their own."

Because his zeal often exceeded his political judgment, he served 20 years without stirring from the backbenches — except to become parliamentary private secretary to Fitzroy Maclean from 1954 to 1957. This was partly because his stint overlapped with the emergence of his social inferior, Edward Heath, who rose from whip to President of the Board of Trade. Iremonger's independent, right-wing views clashed regularly with those of Heath. But his expertise as a penologist earned him a place on the royal commission on the penal system in 1963.

The only time he turned coy was when, having served as an MP for 20 years, he was discovered to be studying for the Bar in anticipation of being ousted by the boundary commissioners. "Barristers do not discuss professional matters," he observed.

His only daughter, Penant, was already a practising

barrister. His wife, the writer, the late Lucille Iremonger, captured their early married life in the Gilbert and Sullivan Islands (now Kiribati and Tuvalu) in her evocative *Life in the Islands*. They had met at Oxford.

He was the son of a Royal Marine officer, Lt-Col H E W Iremonger, who had asked for a son to be named Thomas Lucille. But his mother, Julia, added the Shandon. Valiant in letters to me, Iremonger always signed himself "Thomas L I S V."

Tom had been able to take Lucille with him on his first

posting for the Colonial Administrative Service to the Gilbert and Sullivan Islands, but her serious illness led to their evacuation to Suva, just before the Japanese occupation. In 1942, he joined the Royal New Zealand Navy, transferring later to the Royal Air Force, where he was a lieutenant.

He then joined Conservative Central Office, unsuccessfully contesting Birmingham Northfield in 1950 before winning the Eford North by-election in 1954. He became a consultant to an advertising and PR firm, and editor of Overseas magazine. In 1955, on their 15th anniversary, he gave his wife the freehold of their house at 34 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. By 1964, he was a Lloyd's name. He was an

early advocate of televising parliament, sought compulsory pre-strike secret ballots and was lukewarmly loyal to his cousin over the 1958 Suez crisis. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1963, representing the constituency of Harold Macmillan, which went ahead without any consultation of Tory MPs.

In 1957, Iremonger launched a 10-minute rule bill to force trade unions to elect their leaders by secret ballot. The next year, he was one of 16 Tory MPs among 172 signatories to a motion urging the UN to set up an authority to abolish "weapons of mass destruction". A decade later, he tried to get "foreign scum" barred from British demonstrations, a belated attempt to ban Tariq Ali — already a British citizen — from participating in the anti-Vietnam demonstration in Grosvenor Square.

Iremonger's parliamentary career was effectively terminated by the boundary commissioners. He told supporters during the October 1974 election that "whoever worked it out has given me 6,000 reds and taken away 10,000 blues." Having scraped in by 285 votes in February, he lost to Labour's M. J. M. Miller by 778. Unaccountably, he stood again twice for the same seat in 1978, as an Independent Conservative, receiving 452 votes; the Tory, Vivian Bendall, won with 50 times as many.

Andrew Roth

Thomas Lucille Iremonger, politician and colonial administrator, born March 14, 1916; died May 13, 1998

## Sir Patrick Wall

## Right to the end

SIR PATRICK WALL, who has died aged 81, was a major in the Royal Marines, a member of parliament for 33 years, and a prominent Roman Catholic layman. But he is best remembered for a life of bustling anti-communism carried to the level of anxiety neurosis, one which led him into promiscuous association with regimes about which most Conservatives feel fastidious.

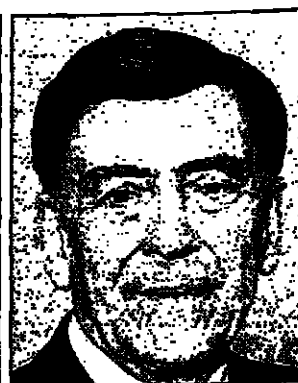
A late and embarrassing example was the invitation to a Tory conference fringe meeting extended by Western Goals UK, a Wall organisation, to one Bruno Gollisch, a German Republican neo-fascist MEP, who, in company with Jean-Marie Le Pen, had broken up a meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, so that he would have "the perfect opportunity to show support for Mrs Thatcher's policy of protecting the identity and national sovereignty of all European nations".

After education at Downside, Wall served in the Royal Marines from 1935 until 1950. After unsuccessfully fighting the 1951 general election, and a subsequent by-election in

Cleveland, he was elected for the safely Conservative seat of Haltemprice in 1954. He remained there until 1983, and, after boundary reorganisation, stayed on to represent the constituents of Beverley until 1987. He held no ministerial office, his highest position being parliamentary private secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the late Derek Heathcoat-Amory, from 1957 to 1959, and four years (1979-83) on the select committee on defence.

In 1963, he married Sheila Putnam, who died in 1983, and had a daughter. A slight, dapper man wearing a dark wig, he lived to see his lifetime's enemies dissolve, his friends — like Rhodesia and South Africa — make for oblivion and the have-nots remain have-nots.

The list of his publications is instructive. They include *The Royal Marine Pocket Book* (1944), *Student Power* (1968), *Defence Policy* (1970), *The Scourge of the Threat* (1973). Orthodox fears of Soviet aggression were held by Wall in heightened and frantic form. He looked upon all opponents of the Soviets and China with blind



and amoral benignity. South Africa, South Korea, Rhodesia, and colonial Portugal were his enemies' enemies.

An early advocate of independence for Rhodesia, he rebelled against his party over sanctions against the white minority regime. He had, said one observer, an apocalyptic belief that war between the rich haves and the communist have-nots would come in about 15 years. Not precisely a fascist in the Mosleyite sense, he was capable of addressing a World Anti-Communist League meeting even after being warned by another anti-communist that

He looked upon all opponents of the Soviets with blind benignity. Not personally a nasty man, he had a high threshold in the nastiness of others

it harboured anti-semites. And his organisation, World Goals, gave a distinct impression of following the maxim "No enemies on the right".

Not personally a nasty man, he had a high threshold in the nastiness of others. An inveterate joiner of groups, this ideological clubman belonged to the British Portuguese Parliamentary Group, the British-Korean Group, the British-Taiwanese and, naturally, the British-South African. A happy conspirator, he was the initiator of the present 92 Group of Tory Right-wingers, which takes its name from his former home

at 92 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. In fairness, there are many committed free marketers and monetarists in that group who would have been affronted by Wall's fellow-travelling position on racialism and bored by his febrile anxieties over communism; equally, if Wall had a view on the monetary aggregates, he kept it to himself.

Even in matters of religious faith, he found a right-wing bolt-hole in the Pro-Fide faction of Catholic ultras. He might, however, have had troubles with his church in the middle ages. For Patrick Wall was supremely a Manichean, a believer that all life is a struggle to the death between light and darkness, the central tenet of the Albigensians pursued and massacred in the orders of Pope Innocent III. In the late 13th century, Wall would have belonged to the British-Albigensian parliamentary group.

He is survived by his daughter.

Edward Pearce

Patrick Henry Bligh Wall, politician, born October 14, 1916; died May 15, 1998

## Leslie Stevens

## New waves from old plots

LESLIE Stevens, who has died of a heart attack aged 74, was a film producer, director and screenwriter who stood out as a maverick within the conformity of the American film industry.

The son of a vice-admiral, he had an extraordinary warlike and academic career. At the age of 15, he won a writing competition, and ran off with Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre Group, which had accepted his play, *The Mechanical Rat*. Truant officers brought the boy back to his family in Philadelphia.

Three years later, he had joined the US Air Corps, and served in Iceland as an officer in the second world war.

Later, after studying at Yale University drama school, he worked as a hotel clerk, a psychiatric hospital attendant and a Times magazine copy boy, all the while continuing to write plays. The first of these, *Bullfight*, was produced off-Broadway in 1953.

Stevens went on to write *The Lovers*, a medieval romance which became the basis for the film, *The War Lord*, and his biggest stage hit, *The Marriage-Go-Round*, about a beautiful specimen of Swedish womanhood wanting to have a baby with a married professor in order to produce a genetically perfect child with his brains and her looks.

On Broadway, the play starred Charles Boyer and Claudette Colbert and, in London, the husband-and-

wife team of John Clements and Kay Hammond. In 1960, when it was filmed by John Century-Fox with James Mason and Susan Hayward, Stevens was the producer, wrote the screenplay, and turned his mildly enjoyable sex comedy into a meretricious bore.

That year his screenwriting contract with Fox was terminated after he failed to attend a lunch given by studio president, Spyros P Skouras. Stevens sued Fox for \$2 million and an out-of-court settlement helped him establish his own production company, Daystar.

Stevens then proclaimed himself "America's only authentic New Wave filmmaker" with the release of *Private Property*, shot on a budget of \$60,000, mostly at his home in Los Angeles. It featured his wife, the blonde former model and TV actress Kate Marx, as a sex-starved housewife seduced by a young beatnik drifter (Corey Allen) with the intention of enabling his sexually ambivalent

buddy (Warren Oates) to have a woman for the first time. The superbly photographed in black-and-white by Ted McCord, the film was a slow and stylised study of perversion, which reached a frenzied climax, revealing madness in the cast's Method acting.

*Hero's Island* (1962), set in 1718, was an awkward but fascinating brew of soap opera and pirate picture, produced, written and directed by Ste-

vens, and shot in 17 days on the island of Catalina. Marx featured again, this time as a gutsy widow and mother of two children, whose island home is attacked by wicked fishermen. To her rescue comes James Mason as a philosophising pirate.

Kate Marx, who only made these two movies, committed suicide in the mid-1960s after her divorce from Stevens.

Meanwhile, he created a highly successful, science fiction series for television, *The Outer Limits*, and, in 1966, em-

barked on *Inchubus*, the only feature ever made in Esperanto and one of his most curious and doomed projects.

Stevens, who directed, explained it thus: "I wanted a language that would be strange to everyone — but still convey some meaning. Anyone speaking any of the Indo-European languages should get the drift." The sluggish drift concerned William Shatner struggling against a spirit from hell who seduces women for the devil.

Back to work as a TV pro-

ducer and director for most of the 1970s and 1980s, Stevens returned to the big screen with another turkey, *Three Kinds of Heat* (1987), a trite cops-and-robbers picture shot at Elstree studios, starring the Chinese actress, Shakti Chen, whom the director married, and with whom he had three daughters.

Ronald Berman

Leslie Stevens, producer, director, screenwriter, born February 3, 1924; died April 24, 1998

Turkey shoot... Stevens directing *Three Kinds of Heat* on location in London

KOBAL

## A Country Diary

CORNWALL: Seaward of an old herringbone-patterned wall, the natural rock garden is set high above the invisible mist that drifts by the cliffs. Boulders grow clumps of cushions of pale yellow kidney vetch, succulent white scurvy grass and sea pinks, interspersed with bluebells and violets. Vernal squill with clusters of pale blue star-like flowers on short stems is scattered in the closest sward, and soon marigolds, sorrel and carrot will be in full flower. Inside, the wall built of oaks range over cliff fields of short grass sprinkled with daisies and buttercups,

trampling through the turf into soft red earth. By midday, skylarks are voluble, the mist part lifts to reveal sea and nearby cliffs. Clouds of short-lived, black May flies drift by in the sultry warmth, pursued by swirling martins. Later, a few Padstow-registered boats, including Orcades and Nimrod, tend to crab pots, taking the catch back for sale to Port Isaac's restaurants. By 6pm, the mist closes in, enveloping the sea in grey and muffling sound, apart from the eerie cry of gulls guiding their mates back to nest sites.

VIRGINIA SPIERS

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN AN item in a panel on the Policy and Politics page, Page 10, May 15, we said, "Animal lover of the day: Stoned Richards, Carmarthen's Labour mayor, who has run up a £500 bill to replace mink fur on her robes with the synthetic variety." Stoned Richards is not the mistress of Carmarthen; she is the mayor. She has not run up a bill for £500; that is roughly what it would cost to replace the real fur on her mayoral robes with synthetic fur. The council has agreed that she may seek sponsorship to raise the money, £100 of which (as we said) she would donate herself. So far it is a desire, not a deed. The fur now on her robes, although real, is not, she says, mink.

IN AN article about Robert Lepage, which began on Page 2, Friday Review, May 15, we misspelt the Schoenberg work, *Erwartung*, and Ruckert, the poet of Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*, became Rückert.

IN OUR report of the death of

Lord Cudlipp, Page 2, May 18, we said "Churchill sued [the Daily Mirror] over a headline run before the 1945 election asking, 'Whose finger on the trigger?' It was run on the morning of the 1951 election, during the Korean war."

THE PHOTOGRAPH of the first edition of *Ulysses* by James Joyce, which illustrated our front page story, Secret files expose Joyce fiasco, May 15, was taken in the James Joyce Centre in the library of University College, London. We'd like to thank the library for that and apologise for not crediting it earlier.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, by telephoning 0171 239 9839 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Send mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC2R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

## Birthdays

Tim Albery, opera and theatre director, 66; Lynda Birke, biologist, 50; The Rev Prof Sir Owen Chadwick, ecclesiastical historian, 82; Cher, singer and actress, 52; Lynn Davies, long-jump athlete, 66; Greg Dyke, chairman and chief executive, Pearson Television, 51; Mary Flanagan, novelist and critic, 55; John Hegarty, advertising director, 54; Lord (Clive) Hollick, chief executive, United News and Media, 53; Martin Honeysett, cartoonist, 55; Simon Kewick, financier, 56; Michèle Roberts, writer and poet, 49; Peter Shore, former Labour minister, 74; Prof Alan Smithers, educationalist, 60; Earl Spencer, 33; Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, British Telecom, 55.

## Death Notices

BERTRAND ZAH, Lucienne, died suddenly on 16th May, aged 50. Much loved mother of John and Michael. Much missed by her many friends. All friends welcome at funeral service at All Saints Church, 51, West Malling, Kent, on 22nd May, 10.30am. Flowers or donations to St John's Hospice, 10, St John's Lane, West Malling, Kent ME18 2JL, will be gratefully received. Friends of the Earth to West, 54, High Street, West Malling, Kent ME18 2JL. All enquiries to arrangements call 01773 555 8077.

LEONARD, Audrey Margaret, aged 67 years, on May 17th, 1998, at home surrounded by her family. Following a difficult and courageous battle. Much cherished wife of Jack and mother of Jonathan, Andrew, Sara and Megan. Loving mother of John and Peter. Predeceased by her husband, John, who died on 10th May 1997. Burial at 10.30am, Friday, May 22nd, at West Malling Crematorium, followed by a service at St John's Hospice, 10, St John's Lane, West Malling, Kent ME18 2JL. Friends of the Earth to West, 54, High Street, West Malling, Kent ME18 2JL. All enquiries to arrangements call 01773 555 8077.

STURGEON, Mrs. Mary, late Hester, aged 85, on 18th May, peacefully at Royal Free Hospital after a long illness. Predeceased by her husband, John, who died on 10th May 1997. Burial at 10.30am, Friday, May 22nd, at West Malling Crematorium, followed by a service at St John's Hospice, 10, St John's Lane, West Malling, Kent ME18 2JL. Friends of the Earth to West, 54, High Street, West Malling, Kent ME18 2JL. All enquiries to arrangements call 01773 555 8077.

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# Finance Guardian

## Chief steps down as circular rejects claims of former clinical trials head Biotech turns fire on Millar

Julia Finch  
and Pauline Springett

**B**ITISH Biotech yesterday attacked Dr Andrew Millar, its former head of clinical trials, and published a 34-page circular to shareholders to rebut its catalogue of damaging allegations against the company.

The company, once the flagship of the British biotechnology industry, also announced that its chief executive was stepping down and revealed it is seeking a high-profile partner from the pharmaceutical industry to sell its drugs in the US — if they ever make it to market. It also confirmed it is to axe one in seven of its staff to cut costs.

The directors accused Dr Millar of acting "improperly

and unprofessionally". They said he might have compromised crucial tests by trying to discover how compounds were performing halfway through, which may mean regulatory authorities could reject their conclusions.

The British Biotech scandal erupted in March when it suspended Dr Millar for allegedly passing confidential company information to two major shareholders, Mercury Asset Management and Perpetual. He was fired on April 20.

In the weeks that followed Dr Millar launched a series of attacks on the company, whose future depends on the success of two key drugs, Zacetax for pancreaticitis and marimastat for cancer. He accused the company of investing too much time and money on two drugs which had only a limited chance of

success; there was no evidence that Zacetax saved any lives and he estimated marimastat's chances of success at no more than 40 per cent. Allegations of insider dealing, rigged trials and withholding key information followed.

British Bio's share price, which reached nearly 300p some 18 months ago, collapsed to 40p.

Yesterday, the company denied any wrongdoing. Its circular addresses all the allegations and includes detailed chronologies, excerpts from internal memos and explanations of drug trial procedures.

Dr McCullagh, who founded British Bio 12 years ago and has become a multi-millionaire although the company has never brought a product to market or made a profit, is to leave in September. He has been under pressure to quit



since the Millar scandal erupted. Chairman John Raisman called his departure "an honourable act... in the best interests of the company". Last night Dr Millar said:

"Keith McCullagh stepping down doesn't change the business plan. It is the first step, but not the whole story." He described the circular as "good news" but added: "They should have made that decision five years ago."

He repeated his calls for wholesale changes in the boardroom. "The real problem is that the directors are inseparably wedded to the existing business plan. They think the shares are the end product, not the drugs."

Dr Millar denied doing any long-term damage to the company. "It is definitely true that I looked at some trial data," he said. "But I looked at overall mortality data, and that is completely unblissable. In no way does what I did invalidate the surveys."

Last night the company's

explanations seemed to have won backing among its major shareholders. One said: "Dr Millar doesn't come out of it well at all."

Perpetual, which has a 9.44 per cent stake, said it was happy with the circular. Bob Verbury, its chief investment officer, said he was pleased Dr McCullagh had decided to step aside, but added he had never been unduly concerned by Dr Millar's allegations.

"Our main concerns have been balance sheet issues and the way in which the products were going to be brought to market." Those concerns had now been fully addressed.

Mercury Asset Management, the largest shareholder with 10 per cent, said it supported the management. It would not comment on whether it believed Dr Millar's allegations.

### Notebook

## Changing of the guard at M&S



Alex Brummer

**T**HE stock market was typically grudging about Marks & Spencer despite a strong underlying performance in Britain, which offsets the weaker overseas results. The combination of steady growth and heavy capital investment, which has made the St Michael franchise so durable, is not the whizz-bang stuff which analysts tend to look for when feeding their clients.

Nevertheless, the decision by M&S chairman Sir Richard Greenbury and his team to press ahead with rapid integration of the Littlewoods city centre stores, which will increase UK floor space by 20 per cent, and to spend on year 2000 compliant and euro friendly tills — in conjunction with a broader IT strategy — will yield dividends as EMU moves to reality.

Moreover, M&S has also demonstrated that a slow, careful build-up of businesses, notably in financial services, will eventually produce returns, with the company's selective range of products from PEPs to personal loans producing some 8 per cent of operating profits.

But behind the solid facade there are signs that M&S is not modernising its board quite as quickly as it has latched on to new square footage.

Sir Richard is insistent that it is the board of directors who stay on as executive chairman for another three years until he is 65. However, there is some concern among the executive directors that this commitment may mean that the transfer of power to one of his four managing directors may be slower than would be preferable.

The four potential candidates, all of them advanced by Sir Richard, are the deputy chairman Keith Oates, 55; Peter Salisbury, 48, who as head of clothing runs the company's core business; Guy McCracken, 48, who is in charge of operations and Lord Stone, 55, — who has drawn the short straw — the static food group.

Sir Richard may want to see how they perform in their current tasks before settling the succession. But there is a school of thought which says that, with so much change going on, from the launch of mail order to IT modernisation, this would be the right time to settle the future.

One way of dealing with this might be for Sir Richard to split roles, by appointing a chief executive who will drive the modernisation while the chairman takes a more strategic view of the company's affairs. For a long time it was thought that Lord Stone was the most likely to step up.

But the internal betting is on Mr Salisbury, although Lord Stone could turn the odds in his favour if he were

### Wage worries

**I**T WOULD be too easy to dismiss the headline rise in UK inflation to 4 per cent as an aberration. But at the core of Britain's economic problems over recent decades has been the way in which wages have tended to outperform prices, with negotiators using the retail prices index as a starting point.

In fact, all the economic data scrutinised by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, that which is causing most consternation is the rise in average earnings of 4.9 per cent. The fear must be that the latest advance in the RPI will drive earnings up a notch further. Much of the increase in inflation is due to administered prices in housing (as a result of the cut in mortgage tax relief) tobacco, and motor, following tax changes in the budget. Strip these out and the underlying picture is much more positive with several key sectors of the economy, from household goods to clothing and footwear, showing price falls. Overall, the picture might be considered benign.

It would certainly be odd for the MPC to change direction at a time when public finances, bolstered by a robust economy, are improving so rapidly with a large debt repayment of £3.4 billion in April. Nevertheless, history teaches that the authorities ignore a feed-through from headline inflation to wage settlements at their peril.

**Biotech trial**

**T**HE intended departure of Dr Keith McCullagh as chief executive of British Biotech has been greeted with some relief by shareholders.

The continued feud between the chief executive and the former director of clinical research, Dr Andrew Millar, has badly destabilised a company in which shareholders — investing in faith rather than tangible results — need to have absolute confidence in the probity and integrity of the management.

This is partly addressed by Biotech's detailed and frank assessment of the prospects for its two main drugs, Marimastat and Zacetax, with the company acknowledging that there are some difficult regulatory issues to be resolved with the latter over efficacy studies.

Now that the public squabbling has been resolved and British Biotech has acknowledged that it will need partnerships, rather than a go-it-alone strategy to succeed in the global pharmaceutical market, there may be a window of opportunity for some normality to return to its trials and its share price.

### Biotechnological warfare



### Dr Keith McCullagh

**D**R KEITH McCullagh, who announced yesterday that he will quit as chief executive of British Biotech in September, is widely regarded as a somewhat controversial figure.

A dapper dresser with what some observers describe as a slick manner, he has enjoyed a high profile at the helm of what was, until its recent woes, a stock market darling.

Dr McCullagh, British Biotech's founder, has been chief executive at the company for 12 years, during which time he has seen British Biotech hailed as one of the brightest hopes in the burgeoning biotechnology field.

He has an annual salary of

£300,000 and is on a one-year contract. No details have been given of any possible pay-off.

Dr McCullagh read veterinary medicine at Bristol University, then went to the United States for four years as a research scientist. He spent another six years lecturing on veterinary pathology at Bristol before being headhunted to be head of biology at the British arm of US drug group GD Searle.

In British Biotech's early days he enjoyed a reputation as a good communicator, but he is reputed to have become more autocratic over the years. Rows with staff were not uncommon.

Earlier this month, in order to allow himself more time to concentrate on addressing the problems at British Biotech, he stepped down as chairman of the Government's working group on the financing of hi-tech companies.

### Allegations and rebuttals

**Allegation:** The company failed to disclose accurately progress in getting marketing approval for Zacetax.

**Rebuttal:** All public statements were factually accurate and reflected reasonable expectations at the time they were made.

**Allegation:** There is no proof that Zacetax might be effective.

**Rebuttal:** This allegation is not valid on the basis of current information.

**Allegation:** The press disclosure of an inquiry by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Rebuttal:** The company was informed of an SEC non-public inquiry in October 1996 and was asked to co-operate "which it has done".

**Allegation:** The company is spending too much on a sales operation.

**Rebuttal:** 50 per cent of expenditure is on research and development. Only 4 per cent of employees are in commercial functions.

**Allegation:** A London Stock Exchange investigation into British Biotech has been reopened.

**Rebuttal:** The company is co-operating fully.

**Allegation:** A report on the allegations involving insider dealing and the SEC inquiry is being withheld.

**Rebuttal:** The report was commissioned privately, never completed and the law firm does not want it published.



### Dr Andrew Millar

**D**R ANDREW Millar, sacked by British Biotech for alleged misconduct, is said to have been on a collision course with Dr McCullagh for some time.

A series of rows between the men is reported to have aggravated further by the recent appointment of a Swedish scientist in a new post above him.

Dr Millar joined British Biotech in 1992, following five years spent in Japan — he is now fluent in Japanese — with the American drug company, Marion Merrell Dow.

He established the British Biotech company's clinical research team and quickly became a popular and highly

regarded figure, especially with more junior colleagues. Despite the furor, Dr Millar still harbours ambitions to return to his job, if a new board of directors were to be appointed.

Last night, he said the departure of Keith McCullagh "opens up that window again for me".

Describing the pressures of the past month, he said: "The last three or four weeks have been a very difficult and harrowing time."

"My wife and I have not slept, with the threat of litigation and everything else. And I don't know what this does to my employability. I never expected that I would end up being fired."

He said he had not yet decided whether to take British Biotech to an industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal, but was taking legal advice.

## Minister urges public to become fashion rebels

### Supermarkets commended for defying designer label mark-ups

Rupert Jones

**A** GOVERNMENT minister yesterday urged consumers to get tough with companies which charge inflated prices for designer goods.

Consumer affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said consumers were "paying through the nose" for designer clothes and other top-brand goods.

He commended supermarkets for "chipping away" at foreign manufacturers which tried to make British consumers pay more for goods than counterparts in home markets were charged.

US firms were particularly guilty of this practice, he added.

Earlier this month, Tesco fired the latest salvo in its war against the big brand names by selling Ralph Lauren and Polo clothing at less than half the usual price.

In January, Tesco cut the price of Nike sports goods by up to 60 per cent, and it has

also reduced prices on Levi jeans, Adidas wear, Sony PlayStations and camcorders, and Calvin Klein underwear.

Asda has been discounting top-brand perfumes, and Sainsbury last month cut £10 off the cost of the official England football shirt.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has asked the European Commission to investigate why Europeans pay much more for everyday purchases than Americans, but Mr Griffiths said the British public had to play its part.

"Consumers have got to show it is high on their agenda. One of the key reasons goods are cheaper in America is that consumers are much more assertive of their rights. American consumers will ruthlessly shop at another store to get five cents off."

The competition bill going through Parliament proposes swift investigations and heavy fines for businesses which abuse their dominant position in the market-place.

● The competition bill could threaten newspapers' profitability by allowing supermarkets to sell discounted newspapers, according to Tory trade spokesman John Redwood yesterday, writes Anne Perkins.

"The whole structure of the newspaper industry is up in the air and we have a bunch of ministers who won't say what the bill is for," Mr Redwood claimed at a news conference launching what he promised would be a series of detailed attacks on the bill.

He warned that the bill could end newspaper delivery and the recommended cover price, threaten distribution agreements and price promotions for newspapers.

Trade and industry minister Ian McCartney called Mr Redwood's comments "totally unfounded".

Mr McCartney noted that the National Federation of Retail Newsagents had welcomed the bill.

"Under the Tories, 2,931 newsagents were forced to close because Mr Redwood and his colleagues were too busy fighting themselves to fight the corner of newsagents."



**A** CUSTOMER looks for a bargain at the Clapham Junction Asda in London. Yesterday the supermarket chain renewed its offensive against the price of over-the-counter medicines with a campaign to shame drug firms into scrapping resale price maintenance.

The RPM allows firms to set the price for their products at retail outlets. Asda

is putting up posters in its stores accusing the pharmaceutical groups of "ripping off" customers by adding £180 million to medicine costs.

The first drugs group in Asda's sights is Novartis Consumer Health, which distributes Savlon's 60-gram containers of Wound Wash, which is covered by

the RPM and sold at £2.25, whereas its own-brand antiseptic, which is not covered by the agreement, can be sold at whatever price the store wishes.

Asda argues that retailers should decide prices of products they sell. Its campaign comes as the RPM is to be examined by a committee of MPs.

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

## Insurer sued over impotence pill

Mark Tran in New York

**S**IX weeks after its tumultuous launch, the impotence drug Viagra, about to star in its first lawsuit. Paul Sibley-Schreiber, a 51-year-old substance abuse counsellor, is suing his health insurance company for refusing to pay for Viagra. He claims Oxford Health Plans is "limiting my sex life".

His lawyers say his suit may be widened to include dozens of other insurance companies that have denied or restricted coverage of Viagra. The little blue pill costing \$10 has become one of the most widely prescribed new drugs and has surpassed all expectations at Pfizer. Even women are taking it.

After battling diabetes for 25 years, Mr Sibley-Schreiber was left impotent about five years ago. He has tried penile injections and suppositories with little success. Viagra, by contrast, has been a godsend, he says. "With Viagra, I can go all night," he said. "The other two options were often painful."

He said Oxford was perfectly willing to cover the other treatments "enough to give an erection to the entire Russian army". And at first it paid for his prescription for 30 50-milligram tablets. But when he asked for a prescription for 100-milligram pills, Oxford refused.

The lawsuit claims that Oxford wrongly denied benefits for a prescription drug that is "medically necessary".

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.537	Germany 2.824	Malaysia 0.12	Singapore 2.81
Austria 19.84	Greece 491.62	Netherlands 3.166	South Africa 8.08
Belgium 38.20	Hong Kong 12.24	New Zealand 2.96	Spain 228.29
Canada 2.29	India 65.70	Norway 11.89	Sweden 12.38
Cyprus 0.83	Ireland 1.124	Portugal 258.95	Switzerland 2.346
Denmark 16.80	Israel 5.93	Saudi Arabia 5.99	Turkey 386.460
Finland 6.829	Italy 2.803		USA 1.5907
France 8.44			

Sourced by Reuters (including rupee, shekel and yen)

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## Football

## Kendall begs for Everton backing

Ian Ross

EVERTON seemed close to embracing grand farce yet again yesterday when their manager Howard Kendall appealed for someone within a seemingly divided boardroom to confirm his job was safe.

Although Kendall spent several hours discussing Everton's immediate future with his chairman Peter Johnson on Monday, he emerged from the meeting without having received the traditional vote of confidence.

Aware that the ambitious Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, is already being touted as his possible successor, Kendall urged someone — indeed anyone — in authority at Goodison Park to either confirm or deny the mounting speculation.

"I cannot kill off this speculation. It is up to someone from the club itself to do that. If there is any truth in all these rumours, I would like to think I would be the first to be told. I had an amicable meeting with my chairman and he gave me no indication that he wanted a managerial change," he added.

Typically Kendall was honest enough to concede that he was not in the least bit surprised that O'Neill had been linked with his job.

"Martin is a top-class manager and if any club which has had a disappointing season is looking to replace someone then he would be a popular choice," he said.

Similarly, Johnson will not be surprised that O'Neill has been placed on Sheffield Wednesday's shortlist.

Although the Yorkshire club do not expect to name a replacement for Ron Atkinson for at least another 10 days, O'Neill enjoys a healthy

level of support inside the Hillsborough boardroom.

As Kendall awaits news of his fate, he continues to build for next season. If his assistant Adrian Heath is lured away to manage First Division Sheffield United, Kendall will probably seek to install the veteran former Liverpool striker Ian Rush on his coaching staff.

Rush was released by Newcastle United earlier this week and is anxious to begin the transformation from player to manager.

The Rangers defender Alex Cleland yesterday agreed to join Everton on a free transfer this summer and Kendall is likely to make a £3 million offer for the Bolton midfielder John Thompson, who is also linked with Tottenham, within the next 24 hours.

"All I am doing, all I can do, is get on with my job," said Kendall. "I am planning for pre-season and for next season."

The Newcastle chief executive Freddie Fletcher yesterday attempted to defuse criticism of the club's dreadful

season when he said: "We must not let it happen again."

Fletcher pledged his support to the manager Kenny Dalglish but added: "There's no point in denying it has been an absolutely disastrous season. We need to work extremely hard this summer and give Kenny a lot more physical support in his efforts to pull things around."

Tottenham yesterday defended an increase of up to 12 per cent in season-ticket prices for next season. The club blamed the increase on the rising costs of players and the redevelopment of White Hart Lane. Prices at Spurs, who narrowly avoided relegation from the Premiership, are up by between 8-12 per cent with the most expensive ticket now costing £710.

Bolton supporters will find First Division football more expensive than Premiership soccer. Their club announced a £1 increase in match-day admission to compensate for an expected trading loss of around £3 million following relegation.

Liverpool have won the Premiership's Fair Play award for the fourth consecutive year. The award is based on the number of red and yellow cards received as well as the team's general attitude towards officials and opponents.

The Anfield club will receive £30,000 to give to an FA-approved charity and Blackburn, recipients of the Fair Play award for supporters, get £20,000.

Sky yesterday signed an agreement with the Scottish Football Association to screen Scotland's home matches. The four-year deal gives the broadcaster the rights to Scotland's qualifying games for the 2000 World Cup, the 2002 World Cup and the Scottish Cup.

## Hammers want talks with Lama

WEST HAM have denied reports that their

France goalkeeper Bernard Lama has already re-signed for Paris St-Germain, who had claimed that the man is looking to replace

someone then he would be a popular choice," he said.

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## World Cup round-up

## Threats to players

Patrick Glenn

SCOTLAND'S World Cup squad leave for New York today for a week-end game against Colombia, players who are in fear of their lives.

Faustino Asprilla, who left Newcastle last season to return to Parma, is so concerned by death-threat phone calls to his team-mate Victor Hugo Aristizabal and the national coach Hernan Dario Gomez that he has said he will not play if Aristizabal is forced out of the team.

Such threats are taken very seriously following the murder of the defender Andres Escobar after he had scored an own goal in the 2-1 defeat by the United States that put Colombia out of the 1994 World Cup in the first phase.

"I'm tired of the threats. 'What kind of country do we live in? We try to make people happy. But this is the only country in the world where footballers are constantly getting death threats.'"

Gomez, however, is sticking to his schedule and taking the squad to New York tomorrow where they face the Scots in New Jersey's Giants Stadium on Saturday night local time.

Nor has Aristizabal been intimidated. The striker confirmed he had received the death calls on Monday and now has 24-hour police protection. "I never thought for a moment about resigning from the team," he said. "I am proud to be Colombian."

Against Colombia the Scots will be a sounding-board for England's World Cup prospects as well as their own. Glenn Hoddle's side are due to meet the South Americans in their first group match, in Lima, on June 26.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, had only one minor fitness problem when his squad met in Glasgow yesterday. Andy Goram, the Rangers goalkeeper, aggravated a hamstring injury in last Saturday's Scottish Cup final defeat by Hearts and was unable to train.

Injury to Nigeria's first-choice goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu of FC Zurich has led to the call up of Crewe Alexandra's Ademola Bankole for a pre-World Cup training session in Switzerland.

But the prospects of Arsenal's French trio of Patrick Vieira, Emmanuel Petit and Nicolas Anelka, and Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf getting a late call into their country's squad do look good. The France coach Aimé Jacquet said: "I've had my final 22 in my head for some time and there's no way a sudden flash will change it."

## Anderlecht's bribe ban lifted

ANDERLECHT will compete in next season's UEFA Cup after a 12-month ban imposed for bribing the referee in their semi-final against Nottingham Forest in 1994 was overturned in Lausanne yesterday.

The Court of Arbitration of Sport, a tribunal set up by the International Olympic Committee, ruled that UEFA's executive committee which had imposed the suspension

was not qualified to make such a decision. Cases of corruption should be handled by UEFA's judicial committee, the CAS said.

"I think there is a tiny minority of football fans who use football as a focus for organising violence. I think the police have got that situation under control."

British Transport Police have announced unprecedented co-operation with the French authorities in an attempt to head off potential trouble. British uniformed officers will work alongside their French counterparts on French soil for the first time to try and prevent trouble from rising using the Channel Tunnel.

Officers will travel on Eurostar services from London's Waterloo station to Paris or Lille. They will be able to arrest troublemakers while the trains are in France, before handing them over to the French court system.

A Home Office spokesman yesterday repeated the "no ticket, don't travel" advice to fans.

"I am sure there will be black-market tickets floating around but there's no guarantee that supporters will get into the match. They're taking a risk and they could lose their money and miss the game."

The FA spokesman Steve Double declined to criticise the FSA's stance.

## Fans' group at odds with Government over tickets

THE Football Supporters' Association yesterday

advised English fans to ignore Government warnings not to travel to France without World Cup tickets — and then announced a sponsorship deal that will help them to run a mobile embassy during the tournament.

The main supporters group dismissed a blanket ban on travel as "unrealistic" and said it would advise supporters on the pitfalls of buying tickets on the black market. The Government, meanwhile, is to spend £1 million on a television advertising campaign advising ticketless fans to stay at home.

The FSA, which ran an embassy in Britain during Euro 96 to help visiting fans, is this summer running a minibus, sponsored by MasterCard, that will follow England supporters around France giving advice and helping with local authorities and on match days up to 10 volunteers will mingle with fans.

It defended its stance yesterday at a press conference in the same central London football theme bar where the Home Secretary Jack Straw delivered his message to fans earlier this year that they should not go to France without a ticket. Kevin Miles, an FSA spokesman, said: "I don't think our role is to act as a ticket agency but we will give people advice about what the dangers are."

But at the same time any advice that we could give would be undermined if we gave the impression that there was no such thing as a black-market ticket available. There is a tiny minority of football fans who use football as a focus for organising violence. I think the police have got that situation under control."

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Back to front... Real's Morientes, doubtful with a hamstring injury, shields the ball from Dani in training

SHUDAN PETROWIC

European Cup final: Juventus v Real Madrid

## Raul carries Real threat

David Lacey in Amsterdam

ALL too often matches that dreams are made of suffer rude awakenings, but it is hard to believe Juventus and Real Madrid will fail to produce a game to satisfy expectations when they meet in the Amsterdam Arena tonight.

The contestants are well cast, the plot well-nigh perfect. Juventus, the modern masters of European football, will be seeking to restore that status following their surprising defeat by Borussia Dortmund in Munich in last season's final.

Real, who wrote the original script, will hope to reawaken the spirit of their early triumphs in the European Cup, which they held for five years from its inauguration in the mid-Fifties.

The multinational make-up of each team will make this a World Cup trailer, except that Frenchman will be against Frenchman, Italian against Italian and Dutchman against Dutchman. Brazil and Argentina, moreover, will be on the same side.

Alessandro Del Piero can win the final for Juventus and Raul, the 20-year-old striker on whom the hopes of Real this evening and Spain next month will largely rest, especially if

of blows for Real that Brazil will be anticipating as they defend their title.

So much depends on the form and mood of Zidane Zidane, as important a creative force for Juventus as he is for France. But Real will trust that Clarence Seedorf proves the equal of his fellow Dutchman Edgar Davids, whose arrival from Milan in mid-season has done so much to kick-start Juventus after some indifferent displays in the group matches.

Juventus look a different proposition from the team beaten 3-2 by Manchester United at Old Trafford on October 1. Not only has the inspired bustle of Davids been added to the midfield, but Philippo Inzaghi is no longer the wispy striker who bounced so easily off Gary Pallister.

At one point the combination of Inzaghi and Del Piero, which had succeeded the weightier partnership of Alan Bokaie and Christian Vieri, did not appear to have the staying power to lead Juventus to their third successive Champions League final.

Now the Juventus pair may be set to undergo a shake-up, the 20-year-old striker on whom the hopes of Real this evening and Spain next month will largely rest, especially if

Fernando Morientes is kept out by a hamstring injury.

If Raul can break the barren spell which has seen him score only twice for his club since January 3, then Real's chances of winning European club football's biggest prize for the first time since 1956 will be stronger in reality than they appear in prospect.

For the fact is that whereas Juventus are fresh from celebrating another Italian league championship, Real have to win tonight's opener to the Champions League, as holders.

While Juventus's coach Marcello Lippi has moved from one success to another since he was appointed in the summer of 1994, Jupp Heynckes, his equivalent at the Bernabeu, is facing dis-

missal after Real's failure to occupy one of the top two places in the Spanish League.

What better city to witness a Real revival than Amsterdam for it was here, in the Olympic Stadium, that they lost a European Cup final for the first time. The meeting of Real and Benfica in 1962 remains one of the great classics and is best remembered for Ferenc Puskas scoring a hat-trick and still finishing on the losing side, the Portuguese champions winning 5-3.

The team of Heynckes cannot afford the approach of their illustrious predecessors, who cared little about conceding goals because they were usually blessed with the means to score more. Real know that should Juventus take an early lead, the game will probably be up.

A tactical stalemate would be disappointing but the longer the final remains scoreless the more mutual caution may take over. Should there be extra-time the first goal, if any, will be the winner.

Real Madrid (4-3-2-1): Peruzzi; Torricelli, Montero, Juliano, Paredes; Di Livio, Chicharito, David; Zidane; Inzaghi, Del Piero.

Juventus (4-3-2-1): Peruzzi; Torricelli, Montero, Juliano, Paredes; Di Livio, Chicharito, David; Zidane; Inzaghi, Del Piero.

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## Rugby League

## Defiant Gregory threatens to quit

Andy Wilson

ANDY GREGORY yesterday reacted defiantly to a disciplinary summons from the Rugby League, insisting: "I'm not going to let certain individuals drive me out of the game."

The former Great Britain scrum-half and current Salford coach has been ordered to explain himself after being caught on Sky TV apparently mouthing an obscenity about the referee Steve Ganson during Sunday's Super League defeat by Sheffield.

Gregory, who has a suspended fine of £1,500 hanging over him from last season for comments about another referee, Bob Connolly, after a game at Leeds, said: "I'm totally dismayed with the game, and this morning I was ready to quit for good."

"There is no doubt in my mind that I am being singled out for special treatment, and because certain people don't like the way I speak my mind. But I'm not going to let those people force me to quit. I've only done what hundreds of football players and managers, and loads of other rugby people, have done, and that's say something to myself."

Gregory was even less impressed to hear of his summons from the Salford media manager and was still waiting last night for an official approach to confirm the date of a hearing. "I'm going to consult my solicitors, but there's no way I'll be paying any fine," he added.

His mood was not improved by the loss of Scott Naylor for possibly six weeks because of a hamstring injury. But David Bradbury could return for Sunday's game against London Broncos at The Stoop.

Meanwhile the League unexpectedly decided not to bring a dispute charge against Hull Kingston Rovers' coach Dave Harrison for calling referee Ron Laughton "a clown" after his team's defeat at Widnes. Castleford's international prop Dean Sampson also escaped punishment, having been placed on report for an incident in last Sunday's defeat at Warrington.

Hull completed the signing of Dean Busby on a month's loan from St Helens, but now seem unlikely to take Craig Murdoch from Wigan because he would take them over their salary limit. However, another of their targets, the Great Britain utility player, Karl Hammond, has been put on the transfer list at his own request by St Helens for £150,000.

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## Team talk

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threatens  
to quit

Athletics

# Pascoe risk in riding to the rescue

Duncan Mackay on a promised new image for top British meetings

LAN PASCOE, looking to rescue British athletics from financial turmoil as its new commercial partner, yesterday unveiled innovative plans for staging and promoting four domestic televised meetings over the next four years.

The former Olympic hurdler, whose sponsorship company helped raise £30 million for the sport in the golden years of the 80s, has set up a new company, Fast Track, to run the meetings on behalf of UK Athletics '98, the organisation currently running the sport after the British Athletic Federation became insolvent last October with debts of almost £2 million.

Pascoe has promised to market the events more aggressively and to make them more entertaining. "There will be fewer events per meeting," he said. "There has to be if they are to be presented more dynamically and choreographed better. It is clear that the sport has an image problem which needs solving."

The meetings involved are the BUPA Games at Gateshead on July 19, a Grand Prix grade-two event, the combined BUPA AAA Championships and Commonwealth Games Trials in Birmingham on July 24-26, the British Grand Prix at Sheffield on August 2, and the SPAR British Challenge in Glasgow on August 30, when Britain are due to meet a team from the United States.

They will be televised live by Channel 4, hosted by Steve Cram, Sally Gunnell and Nigel Walker, and there will also be 12 half-hour magazine programmes in Sunday lunchtime slots.

Pascoe will stake part of his considerable personal wealth of £20 million in the project. On Monday he received £5 million for the remaining 40 per cent of his shares in APL, the sponsorship company he founded in 1994.

"There is a reputation risk, having stepped out from Europe's most prestigious sponsorship company," he admitted. "If this does not work, people will say that he's not as good as we thought. I am underwriting the company and there is a risk of losing money. If it goes wrong, I will be back in my garden."

UK Athletics will retain control of the meetings, having bought the rights for £400,000 from the administrators in charge of the BAF's affairs. The sale was completed using money from the sport's biggest sponsors, the kit company Reebok. Fast Track will not only raise sponsorship for the meetings but also organise them on a non-profit basis.

The final agreement was reached only when the Amateur Athletic Association of England agreed to waive their rights to any profits from their annual championships for the next two years so that the money can be ploughed back into British athletics.

"We go into this on complete trust," said Geoff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, "because we know it could make or break the sport."

David Moorcroft, the chief executive of UK Athletics, added: "After a very difficult six months this positive announcement takes us one more step towards a stronger, more robust future. We hope Alan's company will develop the British meetings into one of the most popular series in Europe."

## One-day wonders



Gas industry... the Warwickshire batsman Nick Knight struts his stuff for England in the nets at The Oval yesterday

# Gough back on fast track

Paul Weaver finds an exciting bowler fired up to face South Africa tomorrow

THERE was more deep faith and bushy-tailed hope on view at The Oval yesterday than one would expect to find in Eileen Drewery's surgery.

As England's one-day squad prepared for the Texaco Trophy series against South Africa, which starts tomorrow, Darren Maddy and Chris Adams were the excited and ambitious newcomers, Chris Lewis the practised prodigy. No one, however, has greater hope invested in him than Darren Gough.

England's fastest bowler — if Devon Malcolm is never going to be a prodigal again — will be paired with Lewis in response to the need for greater penetration in England's one-day attack and yesterday the emotional Yorkshireman, who has suffered hamstring problems and had knee surgery, admitted he was in tears when ruled out of the start of last winter's tour of the West Indies.

"The day I found out was heartbreaking. My wife, Anna Marie, was there. I was very upset. But I had to accept it. The fact that I was always trying to get fit to join the tour kept me going."

"The other upsetting day was when everyone departed and I was left at home. That hurt and it's something I

don't dwell on. And it kept coming back when I saw others bowling on TV. If I'd been there Gus Fraser might not have played! But he bowled beautifully and I phoned him up and told him so."

"I never did make the tour but it was great when David Graveney and Lord MacLaurin visited my hospital bed in Nottingham in January, just two hours after I had come

round, and told me to keep going and get fit. "It feels great to be back in international cricket. It would have disappointed me if I'd been left out of these matches and kept back for the Tests."

"Now the weather is warmer and the knee-brace is off. Having the winter off might have done me the world of good because I'm feeling fresh, doing plenty of batting and bowling in the nets and I'm not taking painkillers, which 90 per cent of bowlers do."

"I'm still young, at 27, and

reckon I'm at my peak. I don't feel unlucky. In fact I think I'm lucky. Fast bowlers get injured, it's a fact of life. I've been out for nine months, which is the longest I have missed."

"But I keep coming back and I've played nearly 80 times for my country, in Tests and one-dayers. I want 200 wickets in Tests. And I must have a chance against Australia in the winter. I have a good strike rate against them. And no one will stop me giving 100 per cent."

If there has often been a sameness about England's

## Selectors Gooch and Graveney take charge of Ashes tour after anger at winter team choices

AFTER what was seen as near-insubordination from the player-dominated selection panels on tour in the Caribbean last winter, the England selectors David Gooch and Graham Gooch will take over the reins of team management next winter in Australia, writes Mike Selvey.

Naturally, given the current fashion to split the two forms of the game, Gooch will be in charge of the Test series and Graveney will take over for the one-day tournament that follows.

Differences emerged between the selectors who chose the tour squad and

those who chose the sides in the West Indies — in the case of the Test team, Mike Atherton, the England coach David Lloyd and the vice-captain Nasser Hussain, and in the one-dayers, Adam Hildreth, Lloyd and Graham Thorpe — who had no vote when either touring party was chosen.

Specifically, there was discord over the treatment of Mark Ramprakash who, in the last winter, when the selectors, travelled to West Indies as a first-choice Test batsman but found himself so far down the pecking order he did not play for the first seven weeks.

Ramprakash had it at the time that Gooch, Gooch and Mike Gooch, powerless to intervene, were incandescent. Hitherto, the tour manager has not had an official vote in selection abroad. That situation ought to change this winter.

Gooch has no experience of managing the senior England side, but was regarded as an efficient manager of the A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka last winter, when the third selector, Gooch, was coach. Graveney managed the successful trip to Sharjah last December and took the A tour to Australia the previous winter.

## Tour match Kent v South Africans

# Tourists step on the gas

Mike Selvey at Canterbury

THERE has often been a bit of psychology involved in drawing up tour itineraries. Lull the visitors a bit, and then hit them when they have been suitably seduced.

So England's Caribbean tour, for instance, would consist of some nice islands and a few beaches before they disappeared into the harsher reality of Kingston, Port of Spain and Georgetown.

South Africa's brief warm-up before the one-day internationals and the Test series that follow appears to have been following an English Heritage Cathedral in Castles tour: a resounding three-day win by the banks of the Severn at Worcester followed by Sunday's irrelevant doddle at Arundel, and yesterday another flexing of the muscles in the sunshine here. The gas-holders at The Oval tomorrow are going to look mighty strange after all that.

Kent, as is the case all too regular with county matches against touring teams, were fielding a shadow side: seven regular first-team players were missing for a variety of reasons ranging from England commitments — Mark Ealham and Matthew Maling — to enthusiastic groin strains — Steve Marsh and Ben Phillips — and a need to rest weary limbs in the case of Carl Hooper, Alan Wells and Dean Headley.

Headley in particular, one would have thought, might have been keen to prove something if only that his no-ball problem is on the mend. A generous crowd (4,000) must be a record for a Second XI fixture, witnessed a one-sided affair. Having been asked to bat first, South Africa paced their innings nicely, scoring 80 during the first 15 overs and expanding that to a 50-over total of 290 for seven, the main contributions coming from Gerhardus Liebenberg, whose 72 continues the early form that puts pressure on Adam Bates for an opening spot, Jacques Kallis (51 from 54 balls), Daryll Cullinan (48 from 54 balls), and 64 in only 45 balls from the captain Hansie Cronje.

Kent stood little chance of making much impression al-

though David Fulton and Robert Key, in his first one-day match for the county, set about things in the appropriate manner with an opening partnership of 65 in 15 overs. Key in particular showed himself to be no respecter of reputations.

He was 19 only last week and a member of the England team who won the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa last winter. Presumably he got a sight of Lance Klusener and Allan Donald while there, but it seemed not to faze him as he stepped inside both and clumped them wholeheartedly through the off side.

Before he was bowled, having agriculturally at Pat Symcox, he had scored 54 from 65 balls with five fours and a six bluffed over extra cover.

Thereafter the South Africans picked off the innings much as they pleased. Symcox, with three for 41, was the chief beneficiary and victory by 98 runs came with more than five overs in hand.

The tourists' party will be boosted tomorrow by the arrival from South Africa of Northern Transvaal and, briefly and anonymously, the Lancashire seamer Steve Elworthy. He replaces Roger Telemachus, who has dislocated his right shoulder and returned home.

South Africa	13
England	72
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48
Worcestershire	48

Total (for 7, 50 overs): 290  
Fall of wickets: 40, 150, 200, 270, 280, 290  
Did not bat: A A Donald, I Klusener, P L Symcox

South Africa: 10-0-40-4; McCague 10-0-40-4; Thompson 10-0-40-4; Long 10-0-40-4; Cronje 10-0-40-4; P. L. Symcox 10-0-40-4

England: 10-0-40-4; Symcox 10-0-40-4; Key 10-0-40-4; Fulton 10-0-40-4; Bates 10-0-40-4; Headley 10-0-40-4; Marsh 10-0-40-4; Phillips 10-0-40-4; Hooper 10-0-40-4; Wells 10-0-40-4; Ealham 10-0-40-4; Maling 10-0-40-4

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